



就職難

恋愛フィルター

従業員

5

Tsunami
Umino

事実婚

高齢童貞

ルーティン
ワーク

因数分解

派遣切り 晩婚化

THE FULL-TIME Wife ESCAPIST

高齢処女

永久
就職

契約結婚

サウナ

Tsunami Umino



VOLUME
5

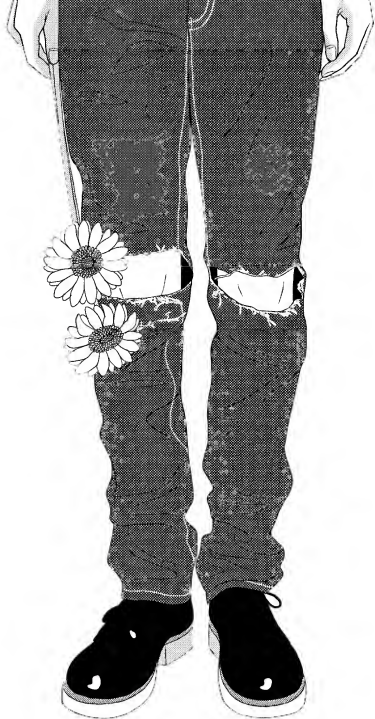
THE FULL-TIME
Wife ESCAPIST



Kodansha
Comics
Kiss

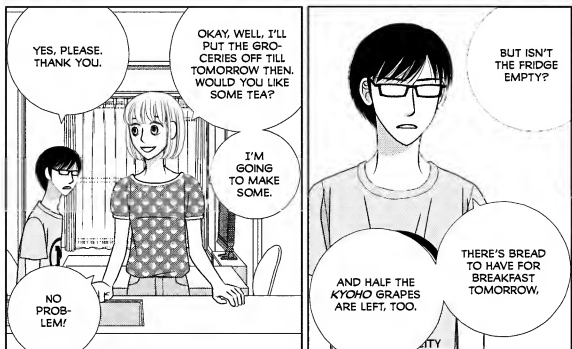
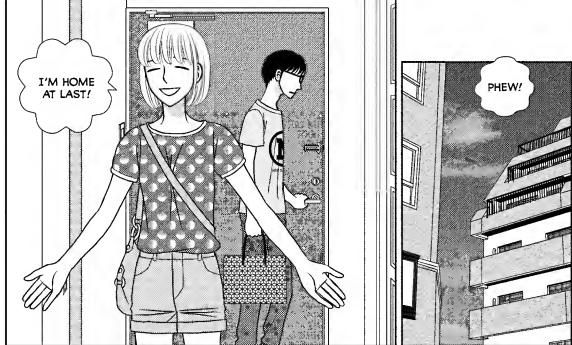


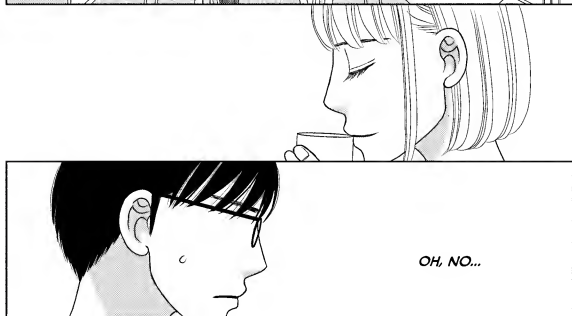
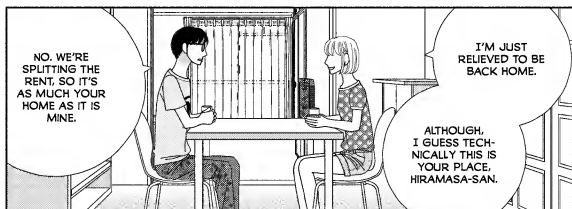


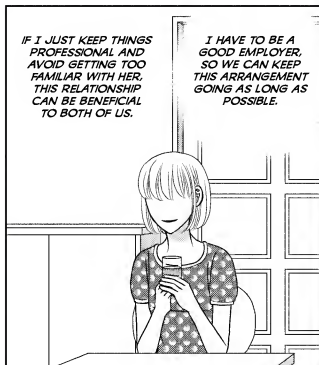


20

**From a Withered Tree,
Flowers May Bloom**







IF I JUST KEEP THINGS
PROFESSIONAL AND
AVOID GETTING TOO
FAMILIAR WITH HER,
THIS RELATIONSHIP
CAN BE BENEFICIAL
TO BOTH OF US.

I HAVE TO BE A
GOOD EMPLOYER,
SO WE CAN KEEP
THIS ARRANGEMENT
GOING AS LONG AS
POSSIBLE.

THEN...



I'M JUST SO
DAMN HAPPY
THAT MIKURI-
SAN'S HOME.

I'LL END UP
GRINNING LIKE AN
IDIOT IF I'M NOT
CAREFUL.

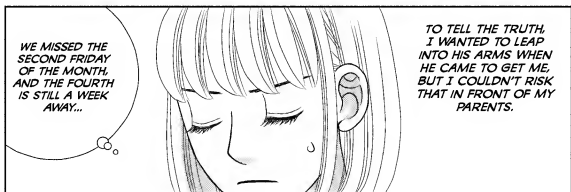
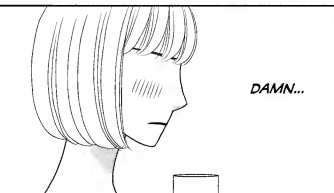


...PER OUR
CONTRACT, I'LL HELP
HER "FILL A HOLE SHE
CAN'T WITH A FRIEND
THROUGH PHYSICAL
INTIMACY" TWICE
A MONTH.

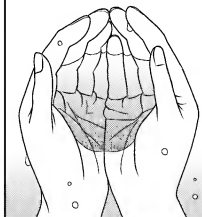


I'M GONNA
CRACK A
SMILE. NO!

OH NO, OH
NO, OH NO.



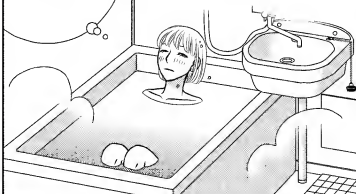
WHEN IT COMES RIGHT
DOWN TO IT...



PERSONALLY,
I WOULDN'T
MIND IF WE
HUGGED
EVERY DAY.

I THINK HIRAMASA-
SAN SUGGESTED
IT WOULD BE LESS
OF A HASSLE IF WE
SCHEDULED OUR
HUGS IN ADVANCE.

ANYWAY, WHY IS
IT THAT WE HUG
TWICE A MONTH
AGAIN?



THE FACT THAT HE
CAN KISS ME ON A
WHIM AND THEN PLAY
IT OFF LIKE NOTHING
HAPPENED TELLS YOU
SOMETHING...

...HE JUST
DOESN'T LIKE ME
AS MUCH AS I
LIKE HIM.



BUT I'M
OKAY WITH
THAT.

AFTER ALL, I ONLY
WANT THE NICE
PARTS OF DATING
SOMEONE.

APPARENTLY, HE
LIKES ME ENOUGH
TO KISS ME.



Mikuri's relationship
started seven years ago.

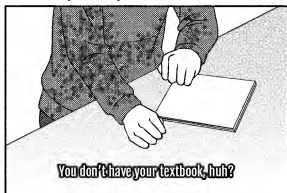


The Trauma of Heartbreak

I wish I could do it
over again...

Mikuri Moriyama (25)

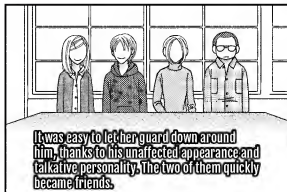
She had begun college
and hardly knew anyone.



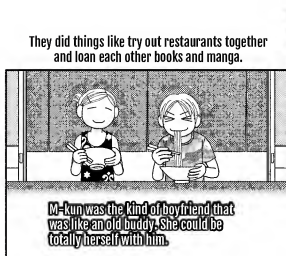
Mikuri Moriyama



That's when the boy sitting next to her
reached out. His name was M-kun.



And then...



That's how Mikuri got together with her first boyfriend.



Seriously?

The tennis circle M-kun joined was the kind that played tennis in the summer and snowboarded in the winter.

But about six months after they started going out...



Hey, someone I know from high school invited me to join this tennis circle. I think I'm gonna do it.

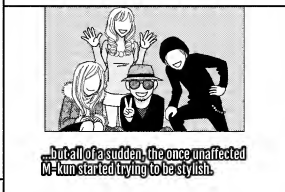


Unsure of how to react to that,
Mikuri started teasing him.



M-kun, you look like a hipster!
Quit trying so hard.

It wasn't one of those tennis circles that people join
just to flirt and pick up members of the opposite sex...



...but all of a sudden, the once unaffected
M-kun started trying to be stylish.

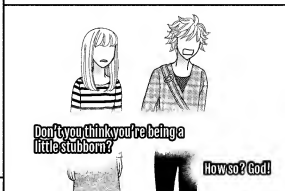


Before long...



Personally, I've never known a
girl who's into hipsters, y'know.

That seemed to hurt M-kun's feelings, and the more
Mikuri did it, the hipper he would dress.



Don't you think you're being a
little stubborn?

How so? God!

They had been dating for almost
a year when one day in June...



Well, maybe that's 'cause you've never
known a girl who's had a sense of fashion.

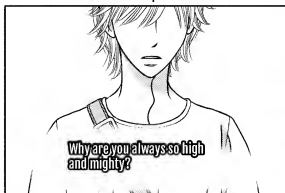
...the two of them got in the habit of exchanging
caustic sarcasm every time they saw each other.

Still...



Mikuri finally found
herself dumped.

Here's how M-kun responded...



You're talking like this is my fault,
but you're the one who changed.



Is that what you wanted to do after
you took two years to get into college?

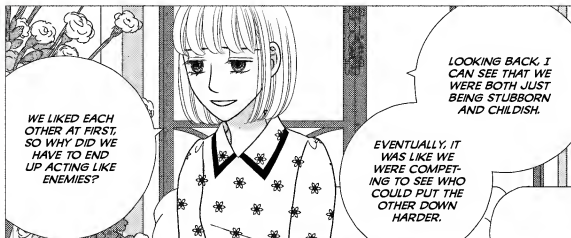
...Mikuri couldn't help but want
to get in the last word.

To this very day, those words haunt Mikuri like a curse.



You act like you're SO smart.

And with those final words, he left.



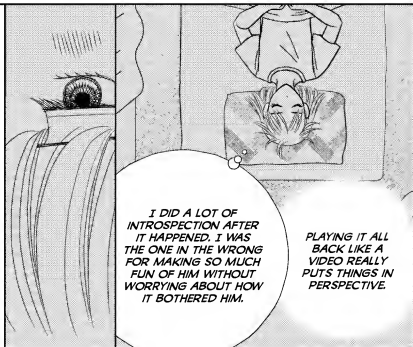
WE LIKED EACH OTHER AT FIRST, SO WHY DID WE HAVE TO END UP ACTING LIKE ENEMIES?

LOOKING BACK, I CAN SEE THAT WE WERE BOTH JUST BEING STUBBORN AND CHILDISH.

EVENTUALLY, IT WAS LIKE WE WERE COMPETING TO SEE WHO COULD PUT THE OTHER DOWN HARDER.

I TRULY DID WANT TO BE LAUGHING WITH HIM, THOUGH.

I JUST COULDN'T FIGURE OUT WHERE TO DRAW THE LINE.



I DID A LOT OF INTROSPECTION AFTER IT HAPPENED. I WAS THE ONE IN THE WRONG FOR MAKING SO MUCH FUN OF HIM WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT HOW IT BOTHERED HIM.

PLAYING IT ALL BACK LIKE A VIDEO REALLY PUTS THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE.



*I'M SICK
OF BEING IN
RELATIONSHIPS
WHERE WE HURT
EACH OTHER
LIKE THAT.*

*I WANT TO FEEL
AT EASE WITH
MY PARTNER.*



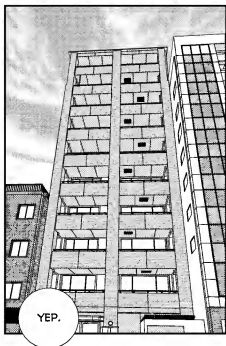
*THERE ARE SOME
THINGS YOU CAN
SAY TO A FRIEND
THAT YOU CAN'T TO
SOMEONE YOU'RE
DATING, AND VICE
VERSA.*

*I MEAN, IF HE
WANTED ME TO
STOP, HE COULD
HAVE JUST SAID
SO, BUT HE HELD
HIS TONGUE.*

*MALE-
FEMALE
RELATIONS
ARE SO
DIFFICULT.*

*I DON'T WANT IT TO BE ABOUT
BARGAINING OR WINNING OR LOSING.
WHEN I SEE MY PARTNER AROUND, I
WANT HIM TO BE SMILING. I WANT
TO BE SMILING MYSELF.*

*I WANT TO TRUST
AND TO BE TRUSTED.*



YEP.

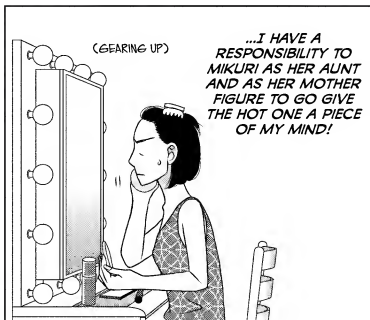


*BUT HOW
DO YOU
MAKE THAT
HAPPEN?*

*MAYBE BY
DOING YOUR "JOB"
THOROUGHLY AND
PROPERLY?*

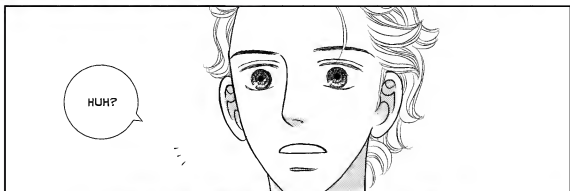


GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES...

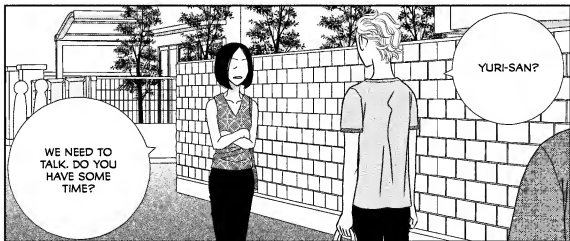


(GEARING UP)

...I HAVE A
RESPONSIBILITY TO
MIKURI AS HER AUNT
AND AS HER MOTHER
FIGURE TO GO GIVE
THE HOT ONE A PIECE
OF MY MIND!



HUH?



WE NEED TO
TALK. DO YOU
HAVE SOME
TIME?

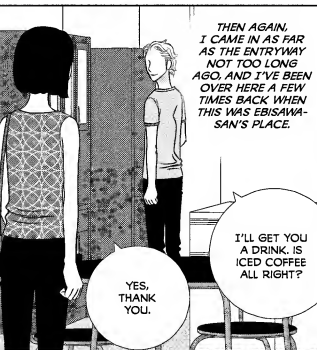
YURI-SAN?



THANKS FOR
HAVING ME.

YEAH, BUT I
JUST BOUGHT
THIS ICE CREAM AND
NEED TO GET IT
BACK HOME.

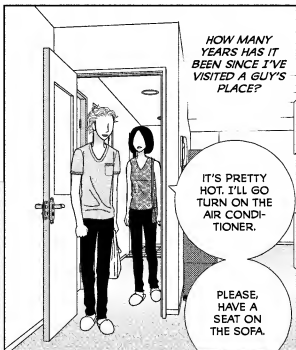
CAN WE
TALK AT MY
PLACE?



THEN AGAIN,
I CAME IN AS FAR
AS THE ENTRYWAY
NOT TOO LONG
AGO, AND I'VE BEEN
OVER HERE A FEW
TIMES BACK WHEN
THIS WAS EBISAWA-
SAN'S PLACE.

I'LL GET YOU
A DRINK. IS
ICED COFFEE
ALL RIGHT?

YES,
THANK
YOU.



HOW MANY
YEARS HAS IT
BEEN SINCE I'VE
VISITED A GUY'S
PLACE?

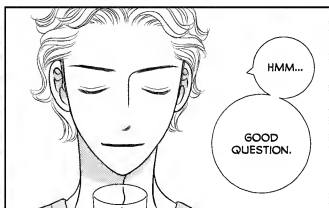
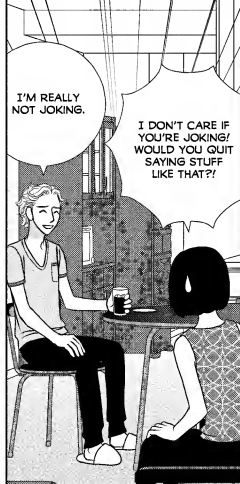
IT'S PRETTY
HOT. I'LL GO
TURN ON THE
AIR CONDI-
TIONER.

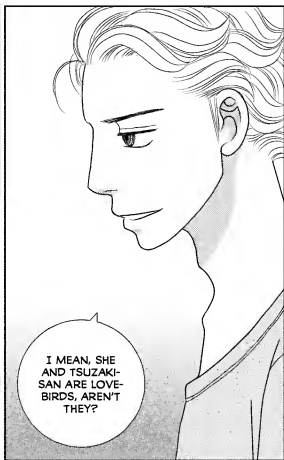
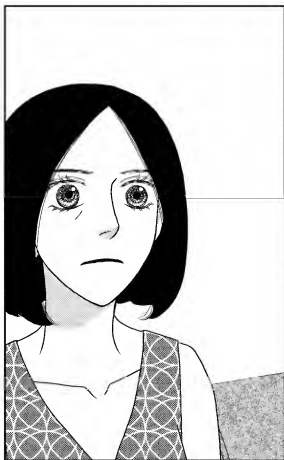
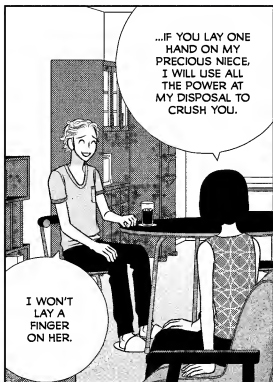
PLEASE,
HAVE A
SEAT ON
THE SOFA.



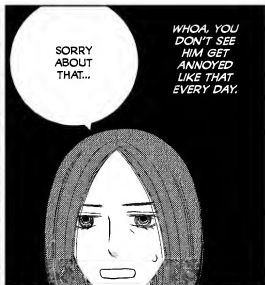
MIKURI-SAN'S
BACK HOME,
ISN'T SHE?













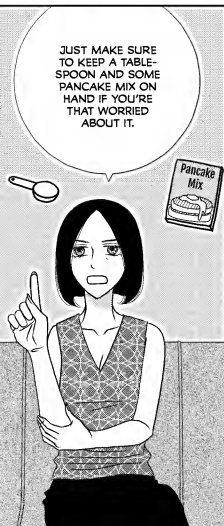
WHY
SHOULD
I?!

OKAY. YOU'RE
GOING TO COME
LOOK AFTER
ME THEN, RIGHT,
YURI-SAN?



I DON'T CARE
IF YOU GET
A COLD AND
CAN'T MOVE.
DON'T CALL
MIKURI FOR
HELP.

ANYWAY, JUST
MAKE SURE NOT
TO STICK YOUR
NOSE INTO THEIR
BUSINESS.

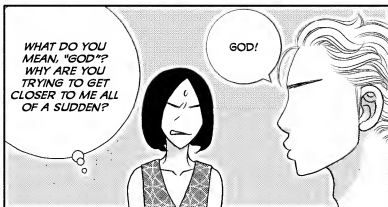


JUST MAKE SURE
TO KEEP A TABLE-
SPOON AND SOME
PANCAKE MIX ON
HAND IF YOU'RE
THAT WORRIED
ABOUT IT.



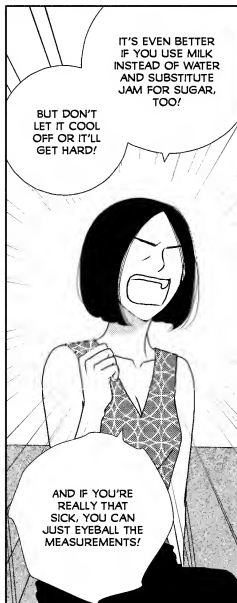
THAT'S BECAUSE
I'M STANDING IN
FOR YOUR LAND-
LORD! DON'T ASK
ME TO MOTHER
YOU.

I MEAN, YOU
DO HAVE A
KEY TO MY
PLACE.



WHAT DO YOU
MEAN, "GOD"?
WHY ARE YOU
TRYING TO GET
CLOSER TO ME ALL
OF A SUDDEN?

GOD!



IT'S EVEN BETTER
IF YOU USE MILK
INSTEAD OF WATER
AND SUBSTITUTE
JAM FOR SUGAR,
TOO!

BUT DON'T
LET IT COOL
OFF OR IT'LL
GET HARD!

AND IF YOU'RE
REALLY THAT
SICK, YOU CAN
JUST EYEBALL THE
MEASUREMENTS!



AWW, COME ON.
THERE'S NO WAY I'LL
BE ABLE TO MAKE
PANCAKES IF I'M SO
SICK I CAN BARELY
STAND.

WATER WILL WORK
JUST FINE. BESIDES,
YOU CAN MICROWAVE
IT TO MAKE A LITTLE
CAKE IN A MUG.

I DON'T
USUALLY HAVE
EGGS AND
MILK ON HAND,
ANYWAY.



YOU COMBINE FOUR
TABLESPOONS OF PANCAKE
MIX, ONE TABLESPOON OF
SUGAR, A DASH OF COOKING
OIL, AND THREE TABLESPOONS
OF WATER IN A MUG. STIR IT UP
WITH CHOPSTICKS AND MICRO-
WAVE IT FOR ONE MINUTE AND
TWENTY TO THIRTY SECONDS
AT FIVE HUNDRED WATTS.

OH, YEAH?



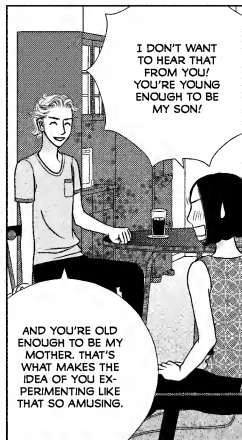
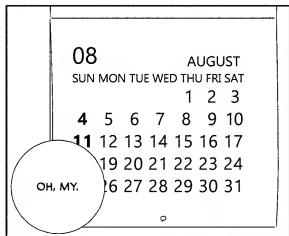
IT JUST
SEEMS LIKE
YOU MIGHT HAVE
EXPERIMENTED
A LOT.

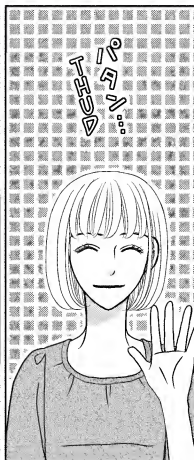
IT'S FUNNY
TO THINK
ABOUT.

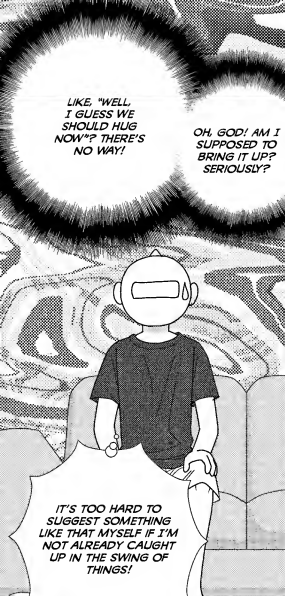


HEH

WHAT?







LIKE, "WELL,
I GUESS WE
SHOULD HUG
NOW"? THERE'S
NO WAY!

OH, GOD! AM I
SUPPOSED TO
BRING IT UP?
SERIOUSLY?

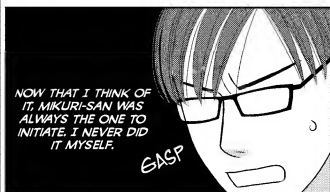
IT'S TOO HARD TO
SUGGEST SOMETHING
LIKE THAT MYSELF IF I'M
NOT ALREADY CAUGHT
UP IN THE SWING OF
THINGS!



MAYBE WE'LL
HUG RIGHT
BEFORE BED.
THAT MUST
BE IT.

IT WOULDN'T
MAKE SENSE
TO HUG SO
SOON AFTER
HE GOT HOME.

AT WHAT TIME
OF DAY DID WE
USED TO HUG?



NOW THAT I THINK OF
IT, MIKURI-SAN WAS
ALWAYS THE ONE TO
INITIATE. I NEVER DID
IT MYSELF.

GASP



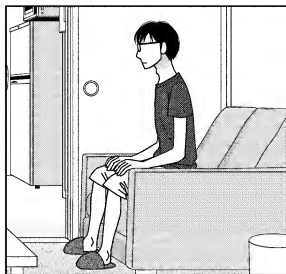
OH. NO, GO
AHEAD.

DO YOU MIND IF
I START LAYING
OUT MY FUTON?

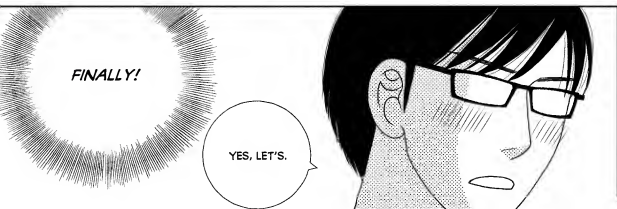
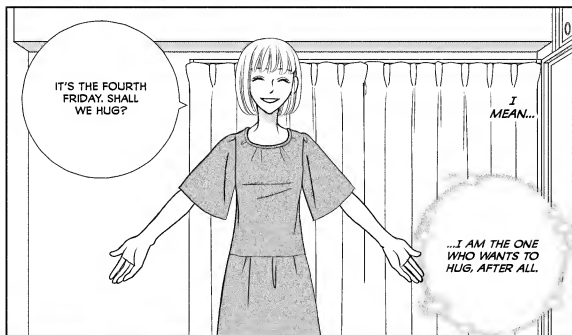
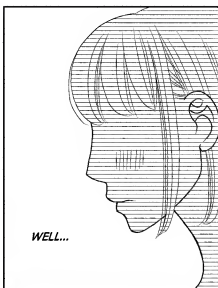


BADPUMP
TWITCH

HIRAMASA-
SAN.



GAH, IT'S
NO USE.



OH! HE
CAME.



I'M THE ONE WHO
INITIATED, SO HE'S
GOING TO COME
TO ME, RIGHT?

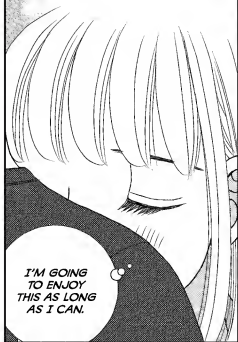


SHE SEEMS TO
WANT ME TO GO
OVER THERE.



IT'S BEEN A
WHILE.

HE'S SO
WARM.



I'M GOING
TO ENJOY
THIS AS LONG
AS I CAN.

OHHH.

PHYSICAL
INTIMACY IS
SO NICE.

IT PUTS
MY MIND
AT EASE.





SHOULD I
KISS HER A
SECOND TIME
NOW?

IS IT
ALL RIGHT
TO KISS HER
AGAIN? I
MEAN, SHE
DIDN'T GET
MAD AT ME
THE FIRST
TIME.



ISN'T THIS GOING
ON A LITTLE LONGER
THAN USUAL?



A SIGN THAT
A NOVICE
LIKE ME CAN
UNDER-
STAND!

GIVE ME A
SIGN! PLEASE,
MIKURI-SAN,
GIVE ME A
SIGN THAT
IT'S OKAY!



BUT THIS IS OUR
APARTMENT. I DON'T
HAVE THE OPTION
OF GETTING UP TO
CHANGE TRAINS OR
PRETENDING TO FALL
ASLEEP HERE.

OH! I COULD
GO STRAIGHT
TO MY ROOM,
THOUGH.



UNFORTUNATELY,
THAT'S MY ONLY
EXPERIENCE, AND
IT WAS RATHER
SHORT-LIVED.

WHAT DID I USED TO
DO AT TIMES LIKE
THIS? I FEEL LIKE
MY EX AND I DIDN'T
USUALLY HUG FOR
THIS LONG.

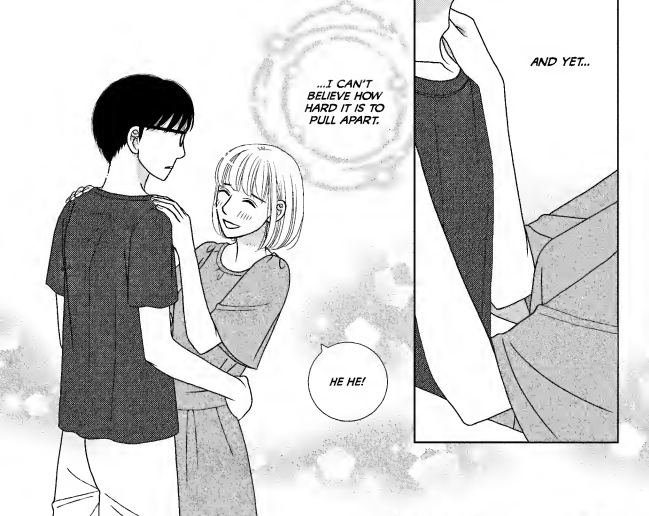


WE'RE
LOCKED IN
PLACE...

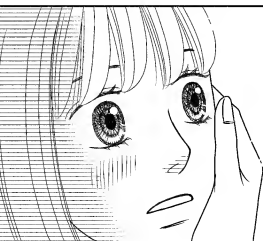


HOW DO YOU EVEN DESCRIBE THIS SITUATION?





SHE'S SO CUTE.



I MEAN...

*IF THAT'S WHAT
I THINK...*

*WHO NEEDS A
SIGN?*



...THEN THAT'S THE SIGN.

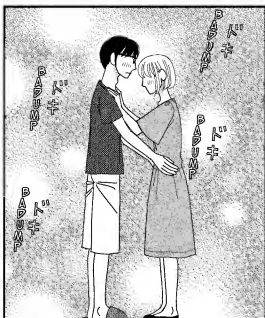
*THE FIRST KISS CAME
OUT OF NOWHERE, SO IT
SENT ME FOR A LOOP.*

*I WAS WAITING FOR THE
SECOND ONE. I MET IT WITH
HAPPINESS AND, AT THE SAME
TIME, A SENSE OF PEACE.*

21

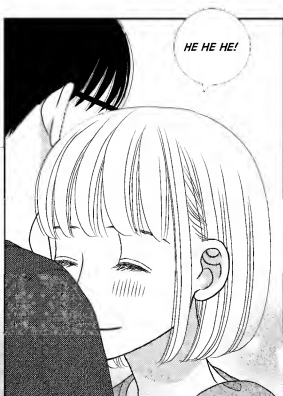
**In Love, You Have
No Teacher**



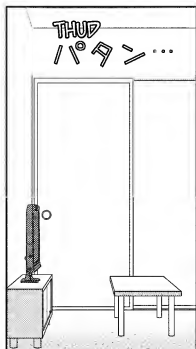




WELL...



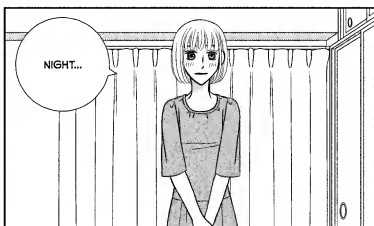
HE HE HE!



THUD
パタン...



...GOOD
NIGHT.



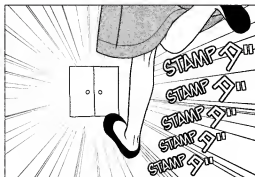
NIGHT...

OHHHHH!

**IS TOO.
DAMN.
CUUUUUTE!**



**HIRAMASA-
SAAAAN!**



**HAVE I
STUMBLED INTO
MY IDEAL LIFE-
STYLE?**



**I HAVE A JOB.
THERE'S SOMEONE I
LIKE. WE GET PHYS-
ICALLY INTIMATE
PERIODICALLY...**

**I JUST
CAAAAN'T!**



**I STILL DON'T KNOW EXACTLY
HOW MUCH HE LIKES ME.**

**IT'S EVEN POSSIBLE THAT
HE'S JUST CURIOUS.**

BUT...

...I KNOW HE
DOESN'T DISLIKE
ME.

PHEW, I'M
SATISFIED.
TIME FOR
SLEEP.

I MEAN,
THERE'S NO WAY
I COULD ASK HIM
TO LIKE ME AS
MUCH AS I LIKE
HIM, ANYWAY!

IF HE LIKES
ME EVEN JUST
A LITTLE, ISN'T
THAT ENOUGH?
YEAH.

IN CONTRAST,
MIKURI-SAN HAS
PROBABLY DONE
THIS BEFORE.

ROMANCE
HAS NEVER
WORKED OUT
THIS WELL FOR
ME BEFORE, SO
I'M NOT SURE.

WOW.

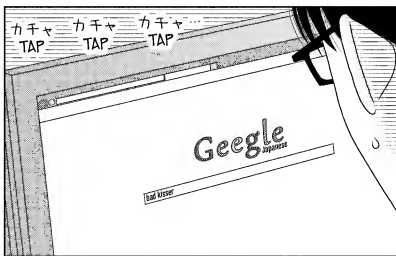
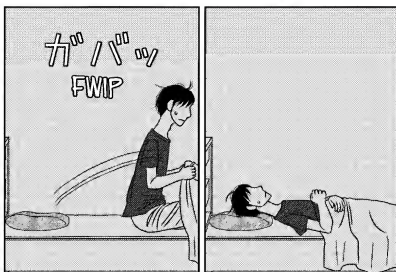
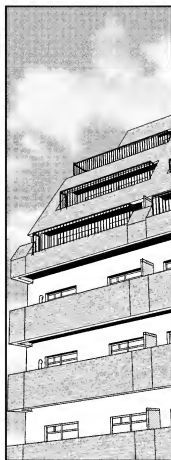
SHE WAS MORE
ASSERTIVE THAN I
EXPECTED. I GOT
SO NERVOUS I
COULDN'T MOVE.

RATHER, IS THIS
WHAT IT'S LIKE
WHEN ROMANCE
DOES GO WELL?
AM I EXPERIENC-
ING THAT FOR
THE FIRST TIME?

ARE THINGS
SUPPOSED
TO GO THIS
SMOOTHLY?



WAIT...





IT WON'T BE LONG UNTIL LUNCH, SO I'LL JUST HAVE BRUNCH TODAY.

DO WE HAVE ANY FRUIT TO TIDE ME OVER?

GOOD MORNING.

WOULD YOU LIKE SOME BREAKFAST?



GOOD MORNING.

JUST LIKE LAST TIME.

IT'S THE MORNING AFTER, AND HE'S ACTING LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED.



YEP, SOLDAM PLUMS. THEY TASTE GOOD, BUT IT CAN BE A HASSLE TO PEEL AND DE-CORE THEM.

I DON'T LIKE HAVING TO PEEL FRUIT, SO I DON'T NORMALLY EAT THIS KIND OF THING.

THIS IS GOOD.

ARE THEY PLUMS?



BUT, STILL, IT PISSED ME OFF HOW HE IGNORED THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM THEN. THIS TIME I'M NOT EVEN ANNOYED.

WHAT'S WITH THIS SENSE OF PEACE?

I GUESS YOUR
EMOTIONS ARE
MORE AFFECTED
BY YOUR OWN
THOUGHTS AND
FEELINGS THAN
BY WHAT OTHER
PEOPLE DO.

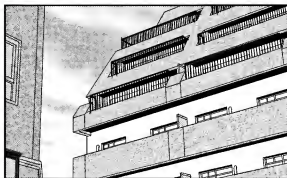


THAT
REALLY DOES
SOUND LIKE A
HASSLE.

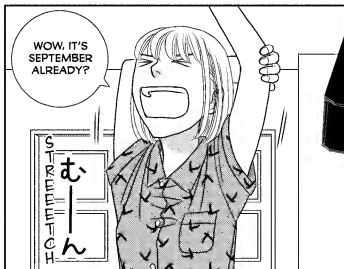
I FOUND A SURPRISINGLY
EASY WAY TO DO IT ONLINE,
THOUGH. YOU CUT IT IN
HALF AND TWIST IT. AFTER
THAT, YOU TAKE THE CORE
OUT AND CUT THE FRUIT
INTO SLICES. THEN YOU
PEEL THOSE.

I DON'T BUY
FRUIT YOU
CAN'T EAT
AS-IS.

OH, I
SEE.



WOW, IT'S
SEPTEMBER
ALREADY?



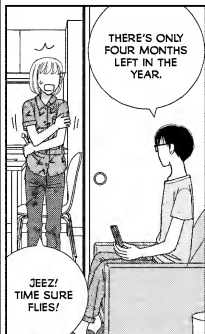
EVEN ANGER MIGHT
JUST BE THE RESULT OF
A ONE-SIDED DESIRE FOR
SOMEONE TO HAVE SAID
OR DONE SOMETHING
ELSE, HUH?

GUH, I'VE
SORT OF
BEEN AN
ASS...





THAT REMINDS ME.
DO YOU LIKE CAKE,
HIRAMASA-SAN? DO
YOU MIND IF I MAKE
ONE NEXT SUNDAY?



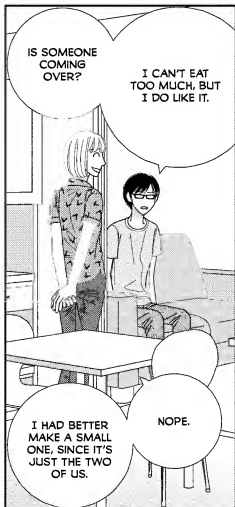
THERE'S ONLY
FOUR MONTHS
LEFT IN THE
YEAR.

JEEZ!
TIME SURE
FLIES!



IT'S NORMAL FOR HER
TO MAKE PANCAKES
OR FRENCH TOAST
ONCE IN A WHILE, BUT
A WHOLE CAKE?

IT'S BEEN A
WHILE SINCE
I'VE BAKED
A CAKE. I
WONDER WHAT
KIND I SHOULD
MAKE.

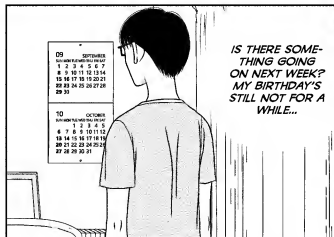


IS SOMEONE
COMING
OVER?

I CAN'T EAT
TOO MUCH, BUT
I DO LIKE IT.

I HAD BETTER
MAKE A SMALL
ONE, SINCE IT'S
JUST THE TWO
OF US.

NOPE.



IS THERE SOME-
THING GOING
ON NEXT WEEK?
MY BIRTHDAY'S
STILL NOT FOR A
WHILE...

09 SEPTEMBER
SUNDAY
1 2 3 4 5 6 7
8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28
29 30
10 OCTOBER
MONDAY
1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10 11 12
13 14 15 16 17 18 19
20 21 22 23 24 25 26
27 28 29 30 31

OHhh, GOD!
NEXT SUNDAY IS
MIKURI-SAN'S
BIRTHDAY!



WAIT...

COULD
IT BE...?

GOD! THIS IS
SUCH A PAIN
IN THE ASS!

SHOULD I
GIVE HER
FLOWERS?

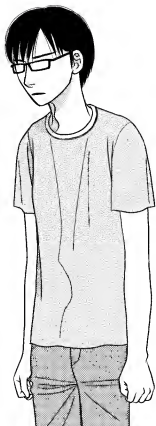
NO, NO, NO. I
DON'T KNOW
WHAT KIND OF
FLOWERS SHE
LIKES. BESIDES,
THAT MIGHT
GIVE HER THE
WRONG IDEA.

DAMN. I'VE
NEVER ACTUALLY
BOUGHT A PRESENT
FOR A WOMAN!

GAAA! A LITTLE
CAKE WOULD HAVE
MADE THE PERFECT
GIFT, BUT I CAN'T
DO THAT NOW...

AS A PRO
BACHELOR, I
UNDERSTAND...

...THAT A
THORNY PATH
LIES THAT WAY.



BUT...

*IT WOULD BE
EASIEST TO KEEP
THIS RELATIONSHIP
AS BUSINESSLIKE
AS POSSIBLE. I'M
LESS LIKELY TO GET
HURT THAT WAY.*

*THE MISERY OF GIVING
MY ALL FOR SOMEONE
ONLY TO HAVE IT GO
UNRECOGNIZED IS SOME-
THING I'VE EXPERIENCED
MORE THAN ONCE
IN MY LIFE.*

*...I HAD NEVER
KNOWN THERE
WAS A PLACE...*

*...WHERE YOU
COULD FIND SUCH
IMMENSE WARMTH.*



I SHOULDN'T
TRY TO MAKE
IT ANYTHING
MORE THAN
THAT. NO, SIR.

ALL RIGHT. THIS WILL
BE NOTHING BUT A
SENSIBLE PRESENT
FROM A BOSS TO
HIS EMPLOYEE.



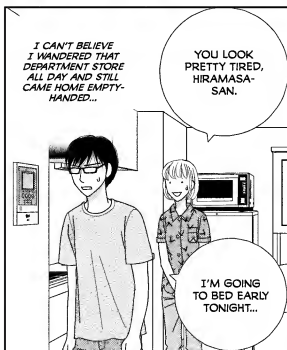
IT MAKES ME
WANT TO GO
BACK THERE
AND THAW MY
FROZEN BODY.



I CAN'T BELIEVE
I WANDERED THAT
DEPARTMENT STORE
ALL DAY AND STILL
CAME HOME EMPTY-
HANDED...

YOU LOOK
PRETTY TIRED,
HIRAMASA-
SAN.

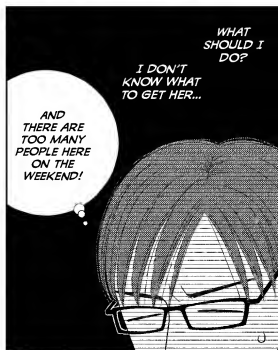
I'M GOING
TO BED EARLY
TONIGHT...



WHAT
SHOULD I
DO?

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
TO GET HER...

AND
THERE ARE
TOO MANY
PEOPLE HERE
ON THE
WEEKEND!





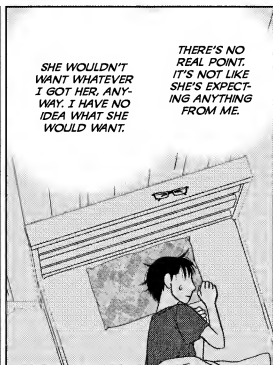
COME TO
THINK OF IT, ISN'T
MIKURI-SAN'S BIRTH-
DAY COMING UP
SOON?



**URRRGH!
WHO EVEN
CARES?!**



**I'M SO BAD
AT THIS KIND
OF THING...**



**SHE WOULDN'T
WANT WHATEVER
I GOT HER, ANY-
WAY. I HAVE NO
IDEA WHAT SHE
WOULD WANT.**

**THERE'S NO
REAL POINT.
IT'S NOT LIKE
SHE'S EXPECT-
ING ANYTHING
FROM ME.**



**MAYBE I
SHOULD GET
HER SOME-
THING. SHE'S
SUCH A BIG
HELP, AFTER
ALL.**

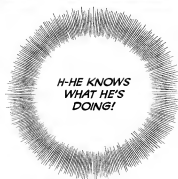
**ARE YOU
SERIOUS?!**



**IT CAME
UP AT
SOME
POINT.**

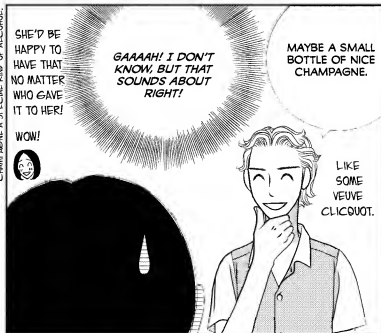
**HER
BIRTHDAY'S
SEPTEMBER
8TH, RIGHT?
SHE'S A
VIRGO.**

**WHAT?
HOW
DID YOU
KNOW?**





YURI'S OF THE GENERATION THAT CONSIDERS
CHAMPAGNE A SPECIAL KIND OF ALCOHOL.





IT'S
A LITTLE
EARLY...

I'M RIGHT
BACK TO
SQUARE ONE.

IN FACT, I
HAVE ONE LESS
OPTION THAN I
STARTED WITH.

STILL, THAT MIGHT WORK
FOR YURI-SAN, BUT IT
WOULD BE A BIT MUCH
FOR MIKURI-SAN.



OH, DEMEL
CHOCOLATES!
THIS IS GREAT!

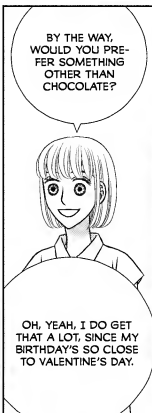
WHAT? YOU
SHOULDN'T
HAVE! WOW,
THANK YOU!

...BUT
HAPPY BIRTH-
DAY!



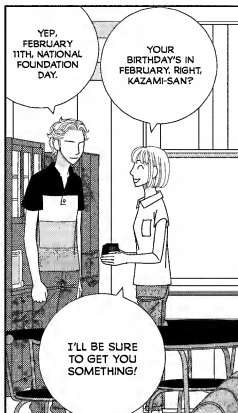
NO MATTER
WHAT YOU GET
ME, I'M SURE
I'LL BE HAPPY
NO MATTER
WHAT YOU GET
ME, MIKURI-
SAN.

BUT, REALLY,
DON'T WORRY
ABOUT IT. ANY-
THING'S FINE.



BY THE WAY,
WOULD YOU PRE-
FER SOMETHING
OTHER THAN
CHOCOLATE?

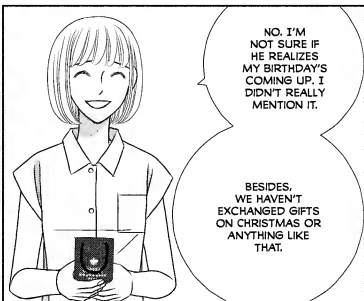
OH, YEAH, I DO GET
THAT A LOT, SINCE MY
BIRTHDAY'S SO CLOSE
TO VALENTINE'S DAY.

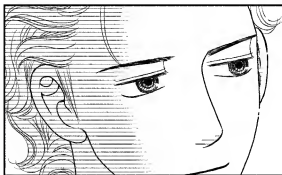
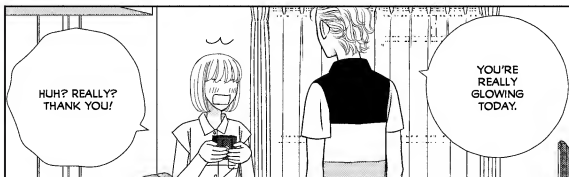
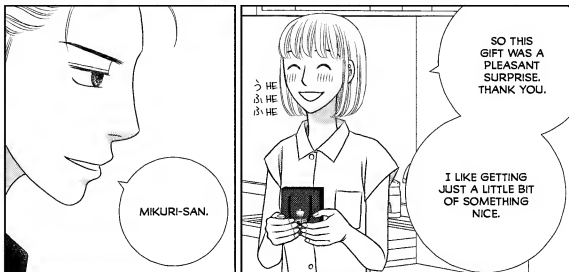


YEP,
FEBRUARY
11TH, NATIONAL
FOUNDATION
DAY.

YOUR
BIRTHDAY'S IN
FEBRUARY, RIGHT,
KAZAMI-SAN?

I'LL BE SURE
TO GET YOU
SOMETHING!

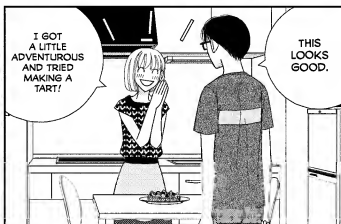
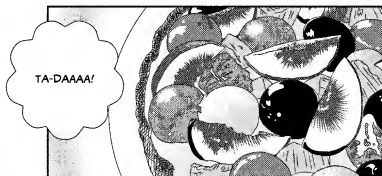
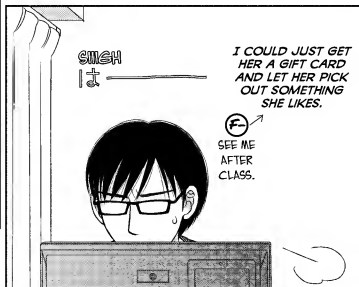


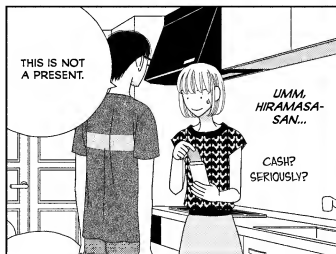
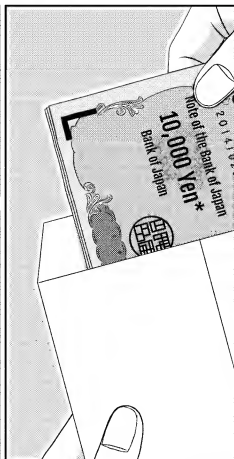
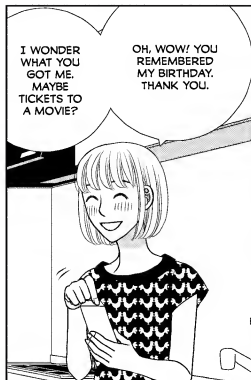




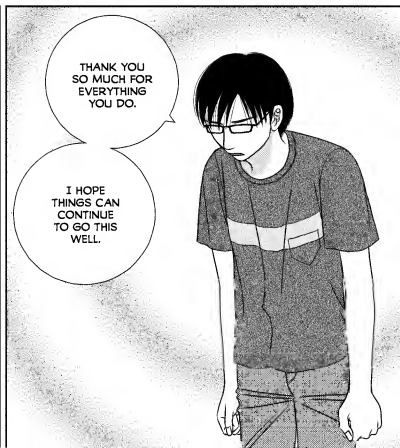
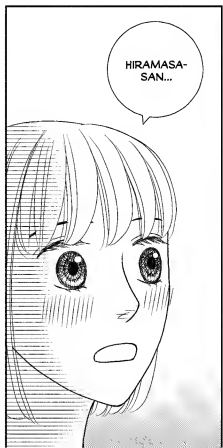
WAIT A MINUTE...







* ABOUT \$100.



GAAAH, I
WASN'T
EXPECTING
THIS!

YAY!
THANK
YOU SO
MUCH!

HUH? UH,
SURE.

...CAN
I HUG
YOU?



SHE WANTS
TO GO OUT
TO EAT AGAIN
SOON.

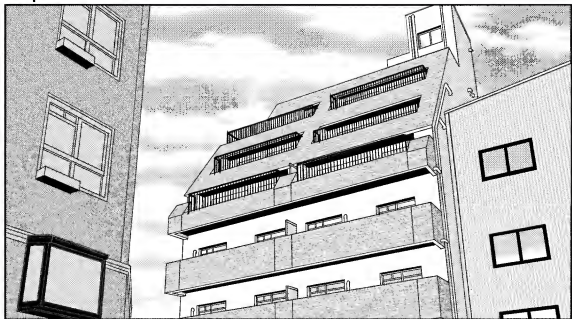
YURI-CHAN
SAYS HAPPY
BIRTHDAY.

IS THAT
SO?

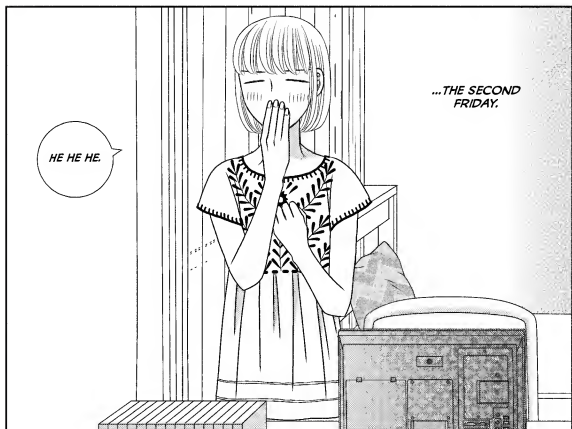
OH! A
TEXT.



Chapter 22

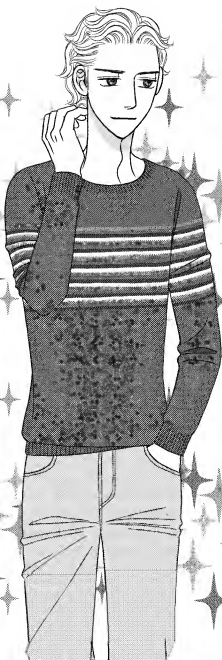
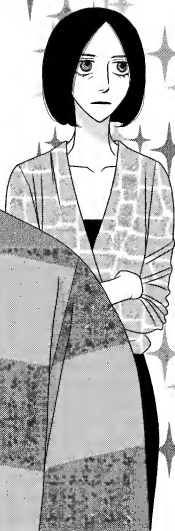
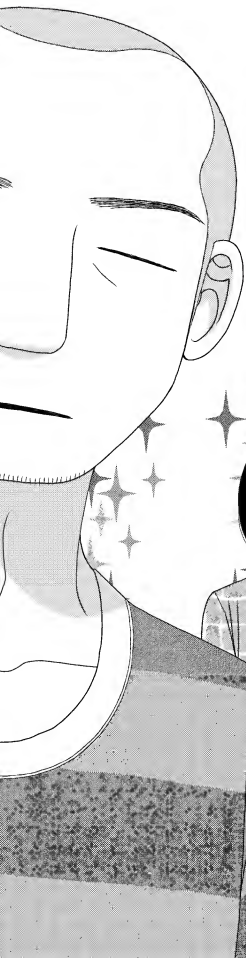


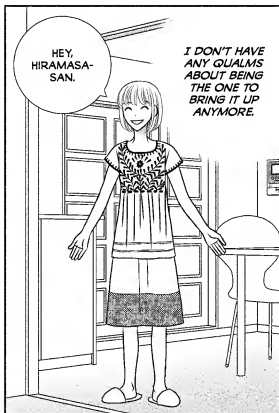
*IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN A WEEK
SINCE MY BIRTHDAY, AND IT'S
HERE ALREADY...*

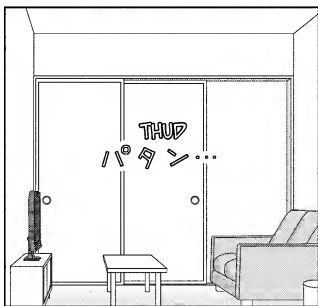
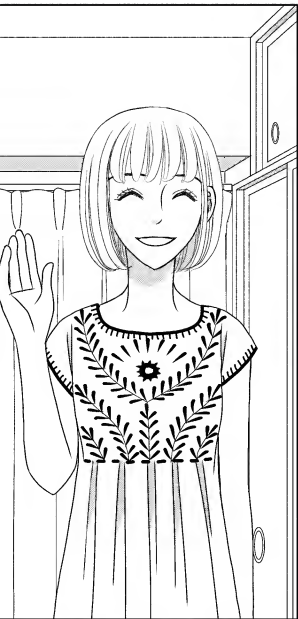


In Spring, Sunny Weather
Doesn't Last









HUH?

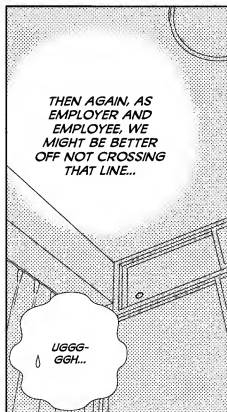


WAIT...





*I WONDER IF HIRAMASA-SAN IS INTERESTED IN
GOING ANY FURTHER WITH ME...*



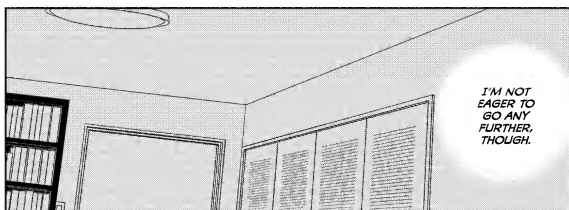
*THEN AGAIN, AS
EMPLOYER AND
EMPLOYEE, WE
MIGHT BE BETTER
OFF NOT CROSSING
THAT LINE...*

*UGGG-
GGH...*



*THAT DOESN'T
BOTHER ME, THOUGH.
I DON'T NEED HIM
TO TAKE THE LEAD
OR ANYTHING. HELL, I
DON'T EVEN MIND IF
THE SEX IS BAD.*

*I MEAN, HE'S PRETTY
OLD TO HAVE NEVER
HAD SEX OR EVEN
A GIRLFRIEND. HE'S
BEEN SO CHASTE HE
COULD PRACTICALLY
BE A MONK.*



AFTER ALL, I MAY NOT HAVE
MUCH SELF-CONFIDENCE, BUT I
HAVE MY PRIDE.



I CAN'T KEEP UP
APPEARANCES IF I
CAN'T KEEP IT UP...

TECHNIQUE ASIDE, MY
LIBIDO'S ONLY GOTTEN
WEAKER AS I'VE AGED. I'M
NOT SURE I WOULD BE
CAPABLE OF SEX AT ALL.

YET I WANT TO SEEM
SMOOTH, HENCE MY
DILEMMA.

AGGGGGH!
THAT'S MORE
LIKELY THAN
ANYTHING!

SHE
MARRIES
HIM.

SHE
STARTS
DATING
SOME-
ONE
ELSE.

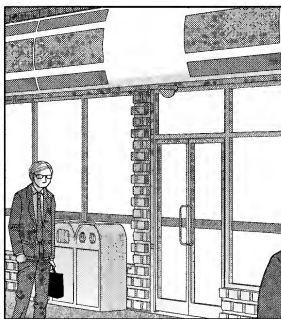
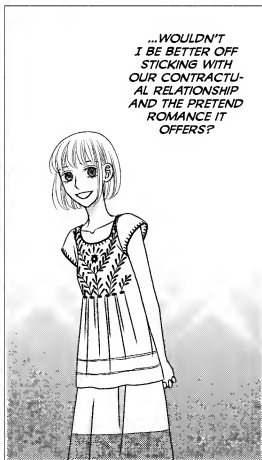
MIKURI-
SAN'S
PATIENCE
RUNS OUT.

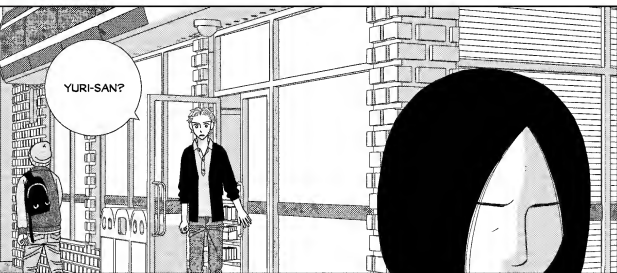
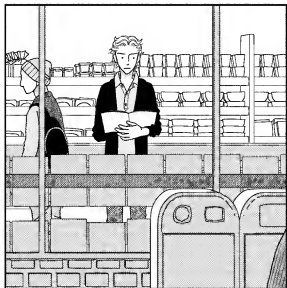
I CAN'T
DO IT.

WORST-CASE
SCENARIO...

IN FACT,
THAT'S THE
ONLY REALISTIC
POSSIBILITY!

SO, IF THAT'S THE CASE...

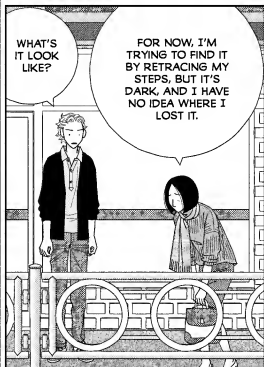








WELL, IT'S
ATTACHED
TO A SILVER
KEYCHAIN OF
THE EIFFEL
TOWER.



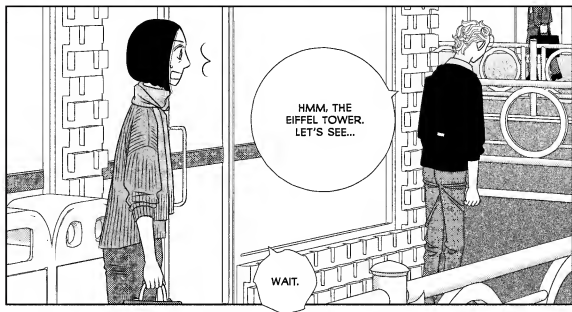
WHAT'S
IT LOOK
LIKE?

FOR NOW, I'M
TRYING TO FIND IT
BY RETRACING MY
STEPS, BUT IT'S
DARK, AND I HAVE
NO IDEA WHERE I
LOST IT.



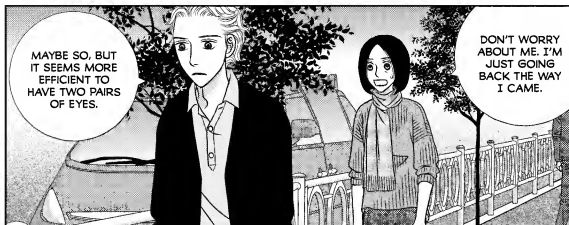
EXACTLY
THAT. AND ONE
I BOUGHT
MYSELF...

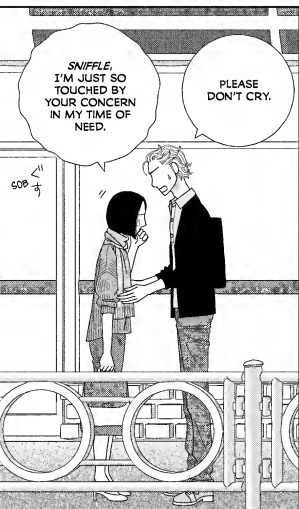
LIKE A
SOUVENIR
YOU MIGHT
GET FROM
PARIS?

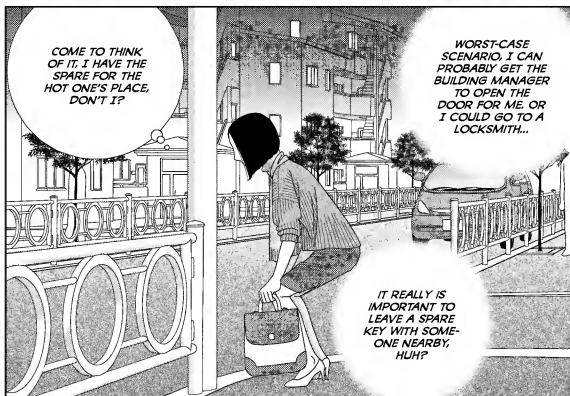
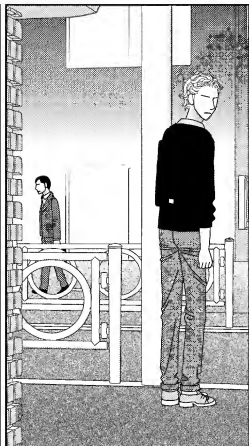


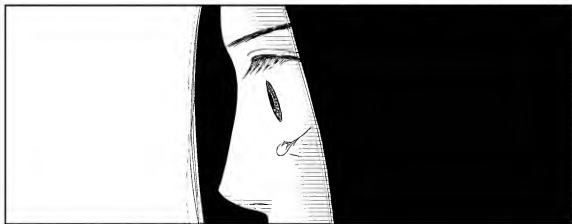
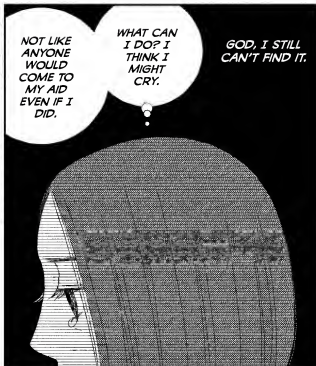
HMM, THE
EIFFEL TOWER.
LET'S SEE...

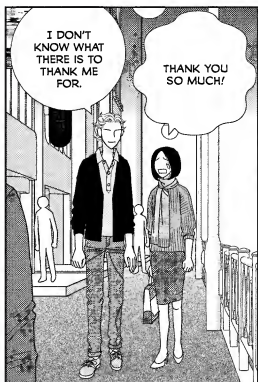
WAIT.













YOU DIDN'T
LIKE ME VERY
MUCH, DID YOU,
YURI-SAN?



YEAH, I JUST
THOUGHT SOME-
ONE MIGHT HAVE
TURNED IT IN TO
THE LOST AND
FOUND.

YOU WENT ALL
THE WAY TO THE
STATION TO LOOK
FOR MY KEY.



SNIFFLE, I'LL
NEVER FORGET
THE KINDNESS
YOU'VE SHOWN
ME.

WHAT
ARE
YOU, A
PUPPY?



YOU SOUND
SURPRISED.

YOU REALLY
AREN'T SO
BAD AFTER
ALL, KAZAMI-
SAN.



I GUESS
THAT'S NOT
QUITE IT.



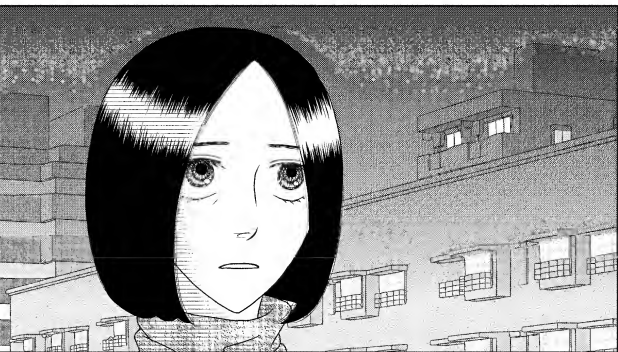
HE GOT
ME!

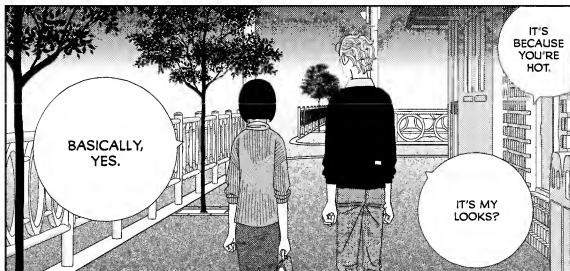
UH, WHAT
MAKES YOU
SAY THAT...?



LET ME
REPHRASE.

YOU DIDN'T
LIKE GUYS
LIKE ME VERY
MUCH.





BASICALLY,
YES.

IT'S
BECAUSE
YOU'RE
HOT.

IT'S MY
LOOKS?



MEN DO THE
SAME THING,
Y'KNOW.

WHEN I WAS
YOUNG, SOME GUYS
WOULD WAIT ON ME
HAND AND FOOT,
WHILE OTHERS WERE
UNREASONABLY
NASTY TO ME.

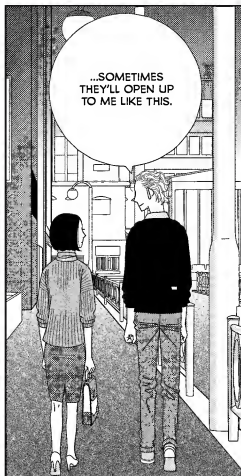


I KNOW
THAT FEEL-
ING!

UNREA-
SONABLE
IS RIGHT.

THEY GET IT IN
THEIR HEAD, LIKE,
"WELL, MOST GUYS
ARE PROBABLY
TOO NICE TO YOU,
ANYWAY!"





...SOMETIMES
THEY'LL OPEN UP
TO ME LIKE THIS.

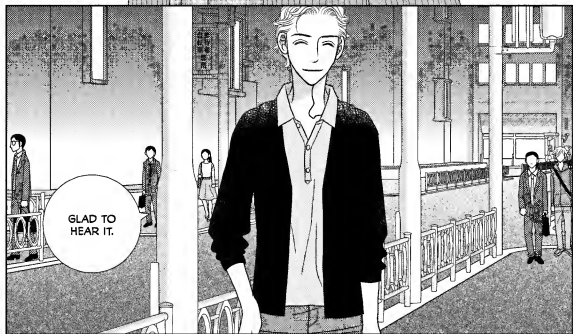


SINCE THEN, I'VE
STOPPED CUTTING
PEOPLE OUT OF MY
LIFE BASED ON THE
FIRST IMPRESSION. I
LIKE TO KEEP SOME-
ONE AROUND IF THEY
SEEM INTERESTING.

BECAUSE
WHEN I
DO...

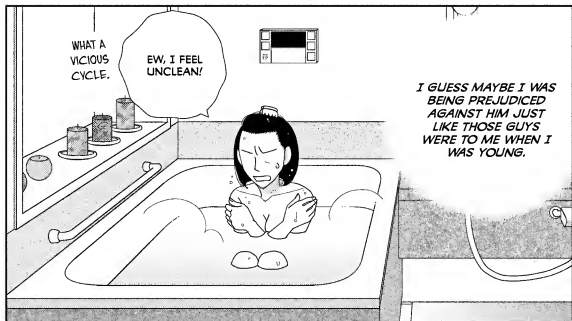


IT'S NICE
WHEN THAT
HAPPENS.



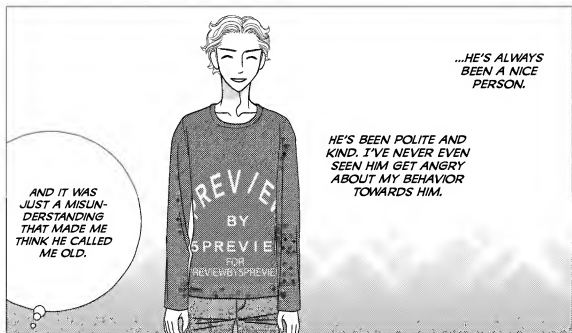


HUH.



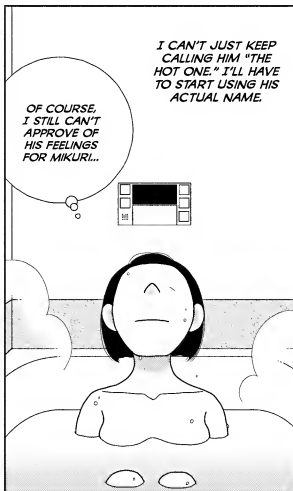
*I GUESS MAYBE I WAS
BEING PREJUDICED
AGAINST HIM JUST
LIKE THOSE GUYS
WERE TO ME WHEN I
WAS YOUNG.*

LOOKING BACK...



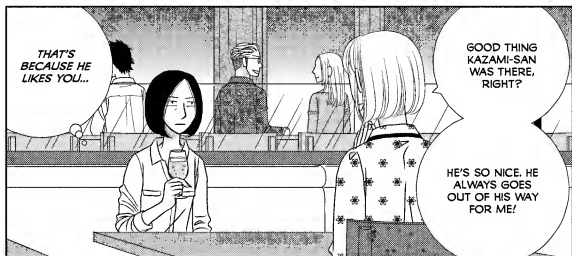
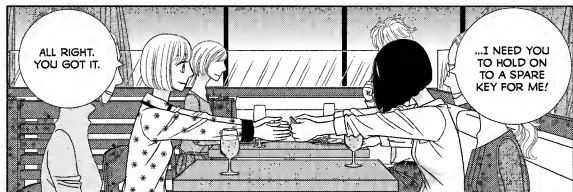
*...HE'S ALWAYS
BEEN A NICE
PERSON.*

*HE'S BEEN POLITE AND
KIND. I'VE NEVER EVEN
SEEN HIM GET ANGRY
ABOUT MY BEHAVIOR
TOWARDS HIM.*



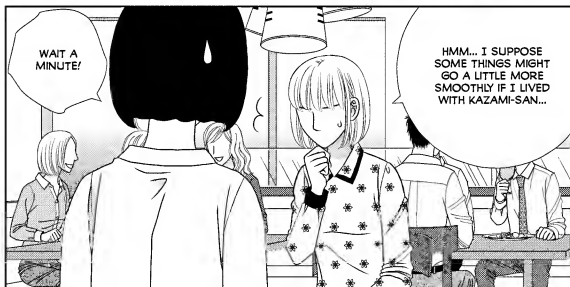
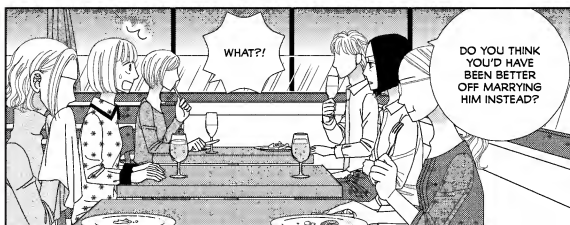


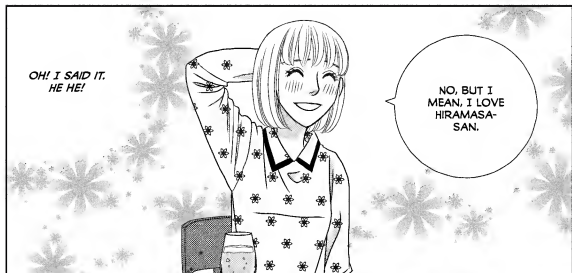
I GUESS ANYONE
CAN EXPERIENCE
UNREQUITED LOVE,
EVEN THE HOT ONE...





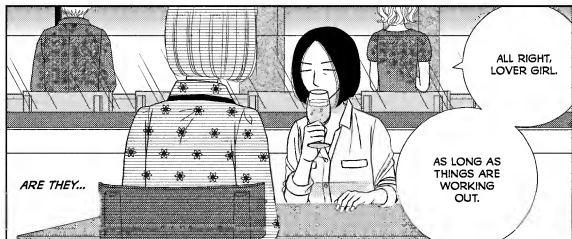
YEAH. HE'S EASY
AN EASY CLIENT
TO WORK WITH,
AND I ENJOY
HOW MUCH HE
APPRECIATES THE
JOB I DO.





OH! I SAID IT.
HE HE!

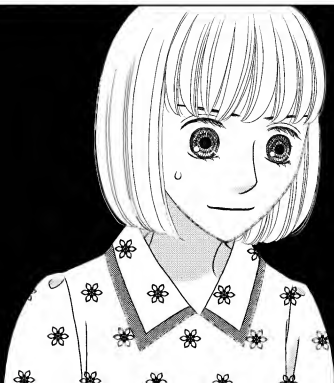
NO, BUT I
MEAN, I LOVE
HIRAMASA-
SAN.



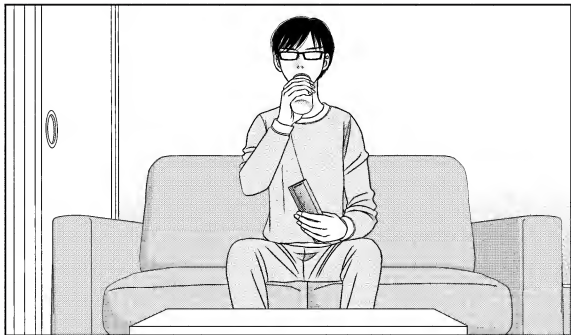
ARE THEY...

ALL RIGHT,
LOVER GIRL.

AS LONG AS
THINGS ARE
WORKING
OUT.



...REALLY WORKING
OUT, THOUGH?



I WONDER...



*...WHERE HIRAMASA-SAN
PLANS ON GOING WITH
ME FROM HERE.*

Let Sleeping Dogs Lie



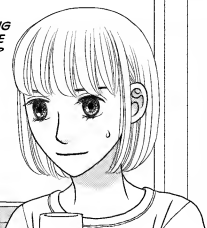
WE WERE GETTING SO INTIMATE, AND NOW
ALL OF A SUDDEN...



THEN
AGAIN...

I DON'T THINK
HE DISLIKES ME.

WHAT'S PUTTING
THIS DISTANCE
BETWEEN US?



WOULD THAT
MEAN I ONLY FEEL
THIS DISTANCE
BECAUSE LOVE IS
DISTORTING MY
PERSPECTIVE?

HAS HIRAMASA-SAN
REALLY CHANGED AT
ALL, OR DO I JUST
SEE HIM DIFFERENTLY?

ACK,
WHAT
IS THE
TRUTH?!



IT'S NOT IMPOS-
SIBLE! LOVE CAN
DISTORT YOUR
PERSPECTIVE
LIKE THAT!

...WHAT IF I WAS
THE ONLY ONE
WHO THOUGHT
WE WERE GETTING
INTIMATE AT ALL?!

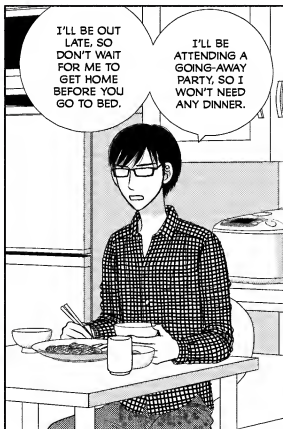
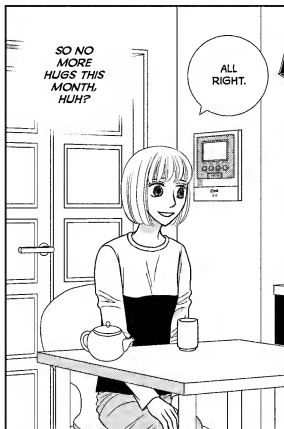


THAT'S OUR
HUG DAY!

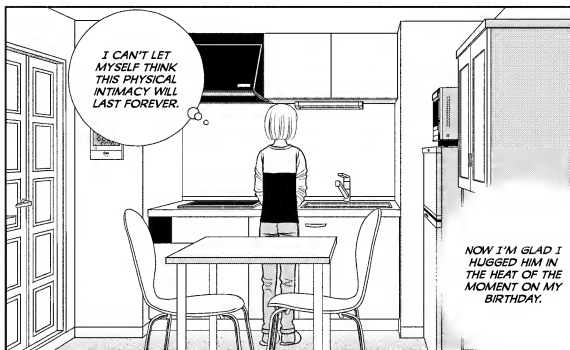
ABOUT THIS
FRIDAY...

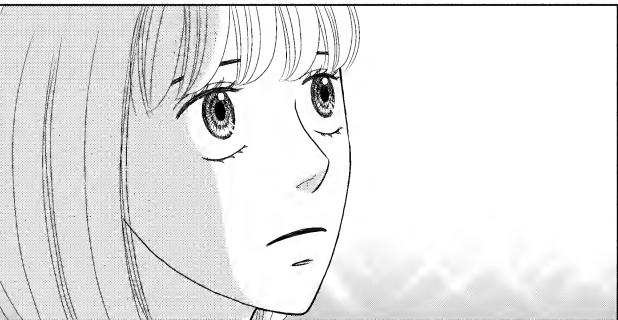
Y-YES?!





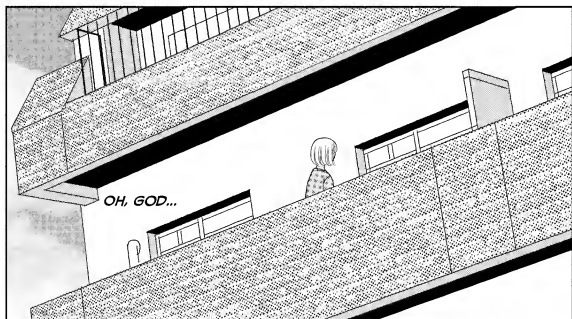
WELL...





*IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S
DUMPING ME...*

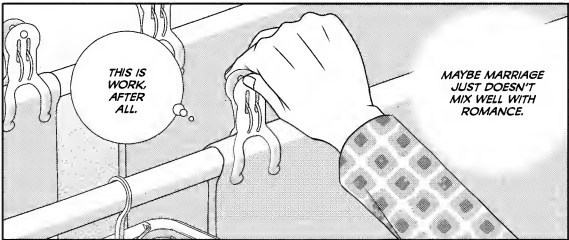
*I KNOW IT'S JUST
THAT SOMETHING
ELSE CAME UP.*



OH, GOD...

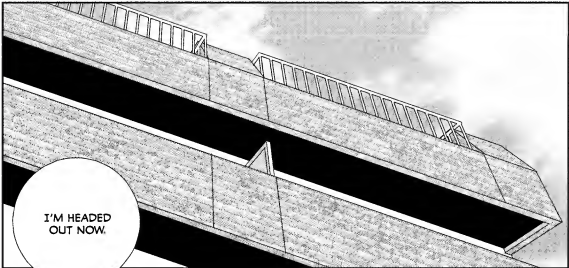


MY EMOTIONS
DIDN'T RULE OVER
ME LIKE THIS BEFORE
I FELL FOR HIM.

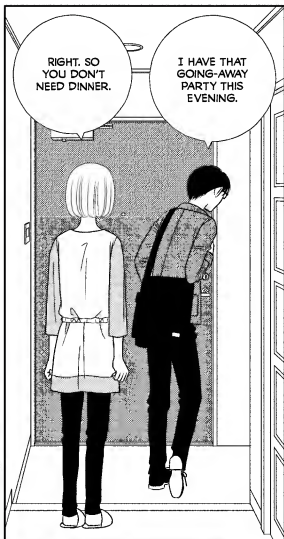
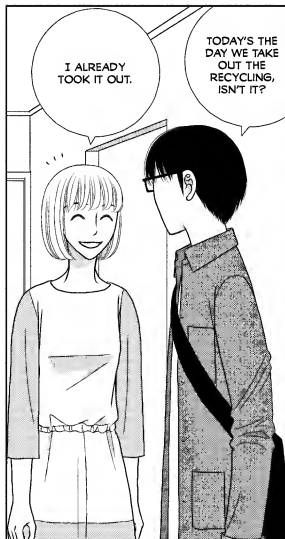


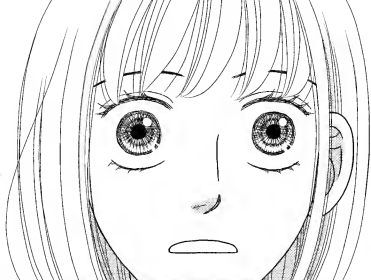
THIS IS
WORK,
AFTER
ALL.

MAYBE MARRIAGE
JUST DOESN'T
MIX WELL WITH
ROMANCE.



I'M HEADED
OUT NOW.

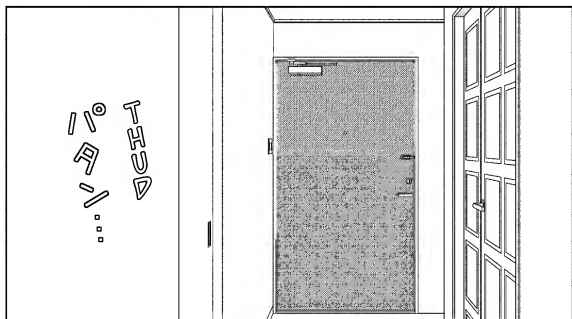
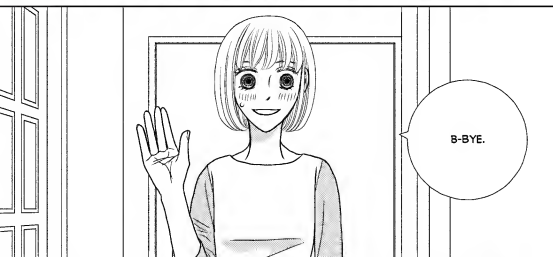




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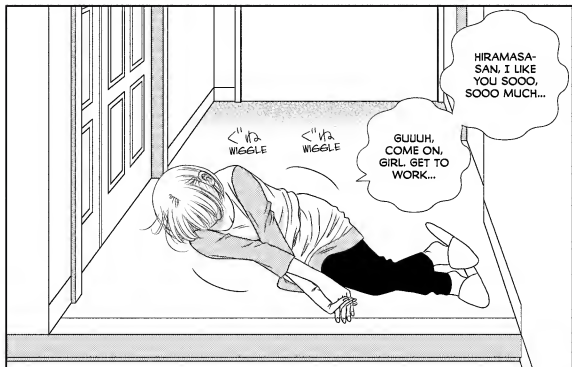
ハグ
ハグ SQUEEZE
ハグ





*THERE GO MY WORRIES ABOUT HIM
NOT LIKING ME.*

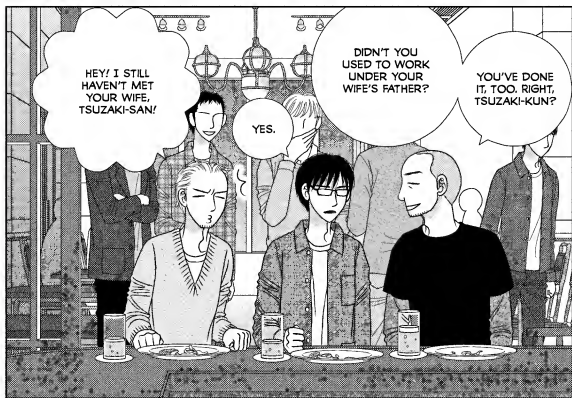
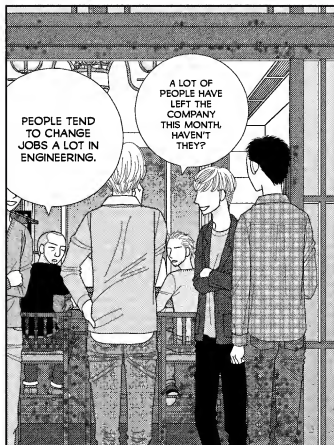


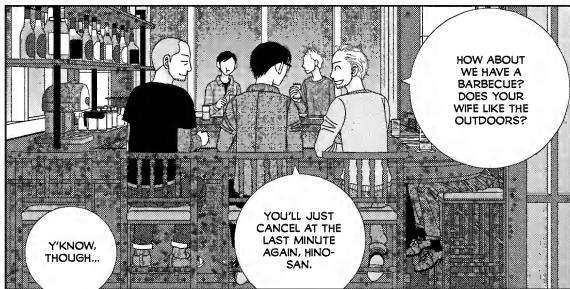


*IT'S AMAZING HOW
WONDERFUL UNEX-
PECTED AFFECTION
CAN BE.*









A NEW JOB,
HUH?

SINCE WE'RE MARRIED
ON A CONTRACTUAL
BASIS, WE CAN JUST END
THINGS IF NECESSARY, BUT
THAT WOULDN'T WORK
FOR A NORMAL MARRIED
COUPLE.

WITH A WIFE AND KIDS
TO TAKE CARE OF,
WHO COULD HELP BUT
BE ANXIOUS ABOUT
THE WAY THE WORLD
IS GOING THESE
DAYS?

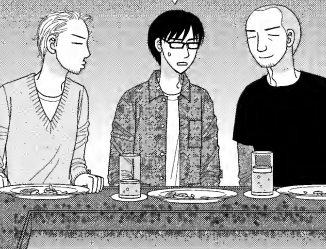
WHEN IT WAS JUST ME, I
ONLY WOULD'VE HAD TO
CONSIDER MY OWN NEEDS,
BUT YOU CAN'T DO THAT
WHEN YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE
FOR SOMEONE ELSE.



WHY WON'T YOU
PUT IN A GOOD
WORD FOR ME,
NUMATA-SAN?

TSUZAKI-KUN, I'LL
BE SURE TO PUT
IN A GOOD WORD
FOR YOU AND
KAZAMI-KUN WHEN
I CHANGE JOBS.

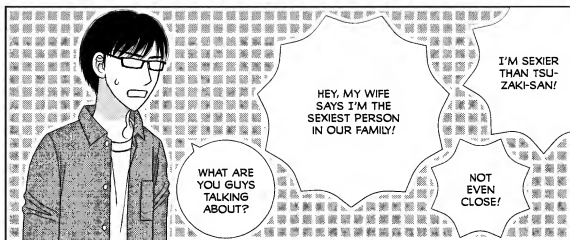
RIGHT...

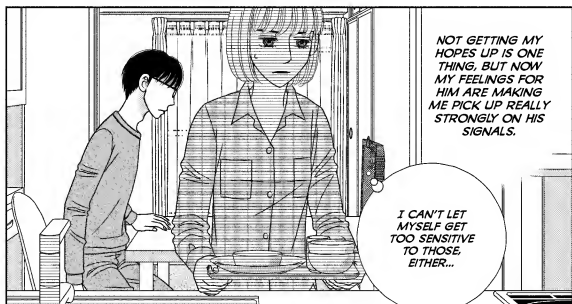
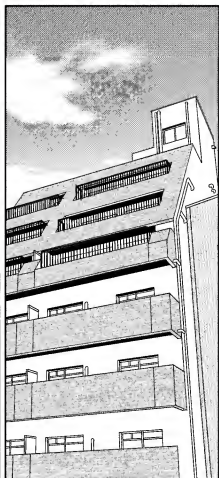


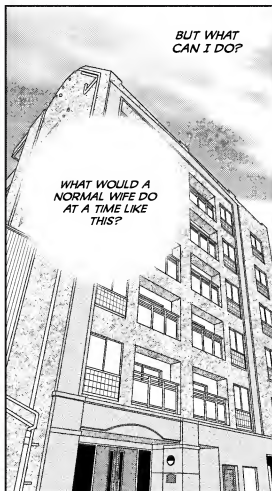
MY INCOME
INCREASED LAST
TIME I CHANGED
JOBS, BUT WHAT IF
OUR DEPARTMENT
DOES GET LAID
OFF AND I CAN'T
FIND ANYTHING
AS GOOD AS MY
CURRENT JOB?

OOF, I
DON'T
WANT TO
THINK
ABOUT
THAT.









BUT WHAT
CAN I DO?

WHAT WOULD A
NORMAL WIFE DO
AT A TIME LIKE
THIS?

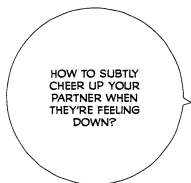


I'VE GOT
NOTHING
TO DO WITH
IT. NOTHING
AT ALL.

I CAN'T START
SELF-FLAGEL-
LATING.

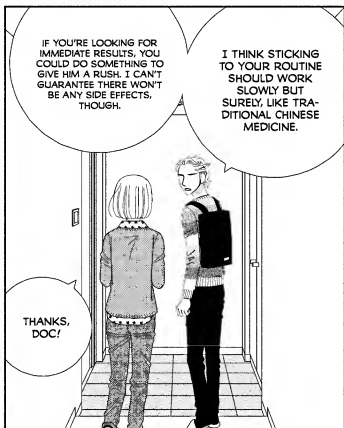
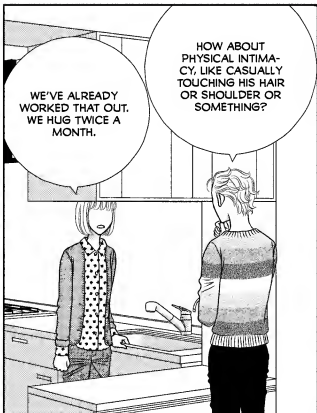
...BUT I'M
DESPERATELY
TRYING TO SUP-
PRESS THE IDEA
THAT HE FEELS
BAD BECAUSE
OF ME.

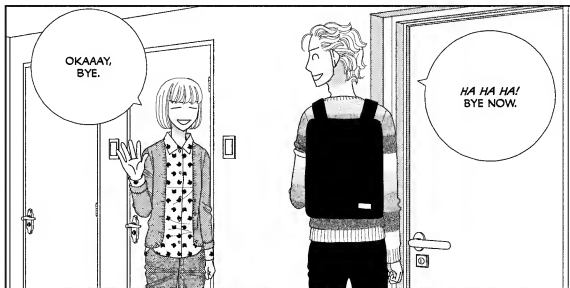
AGGGGGIT



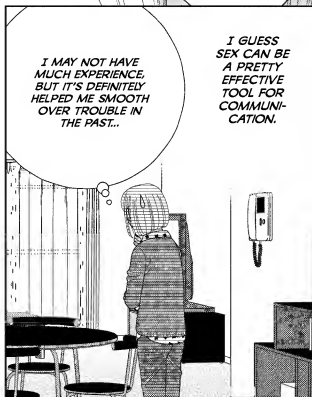
HOW TO SUBTLY
CHEER UP YOUR
PARTNER WHEN
THEY'RE FEELING
DOWN?







PHYSICAL INTIMACY, HUH?



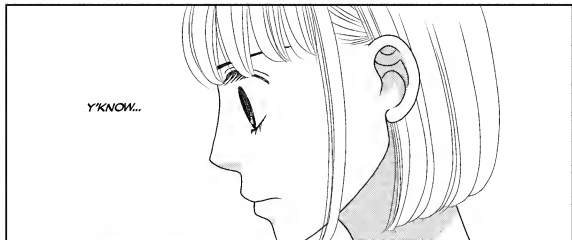
I MAY NOT HAVE MUCH EXPERIENCE, BUT IT'S DEFINITELY HELPED ME SMOOTH OVER TROUBLE IN THE PAST...

I GUESS SEX CAN BE A PRETTY EFFECTIVE TOOL FOR COMMUNICATION.



OHhh, IS THAT WHAT IT WILL TAKE? AM I REALLY GONNA GO THERE?

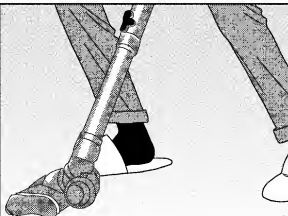
WELL, YOU CAN'T GET MUCH MORE INTIMATE THAN SEX.



BUT, THEN AGAIN,
IF IT HELPS US DO
OUR JOBS WITH LESS
STRESS, I DON'T
THINK THERE'S ANY
HARM IN IT.

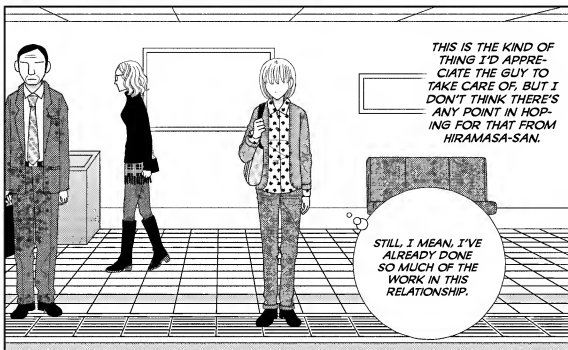
PROFESSIONALLY
SPEAKING, IT MIGHT
BE BEST NOT TO GO
THERE.

LIKE IT
MIGHT HELP
CALM OUR
NERVES.



I JUST DON'T
KNOW... I'M READY
TO GIVE IT A SHOT
IF HIRAMASA-SAN
WANTS TO. BUT IF
HE DOESN'T NEED IT,
THEN NEITHER DO I.

NOT THAT
I'M NOT IN-
TERESTED.



THIS IS THE KIND OF
THING I'D APPRE-
CIATE THE GUY TO
TAKE CARE OF, BUT I
DON'T THINK THERE'S
ANY POINT IN HOP-
ING FOR THAT FROM
HIRAMASA-SAN.

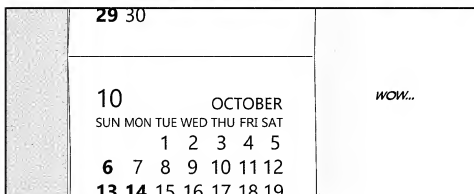
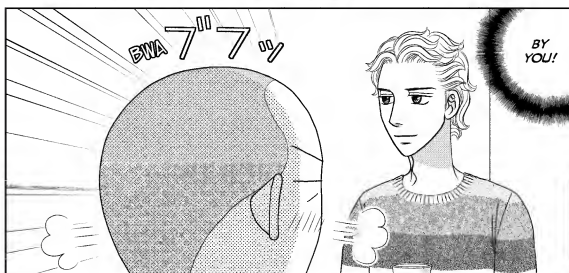
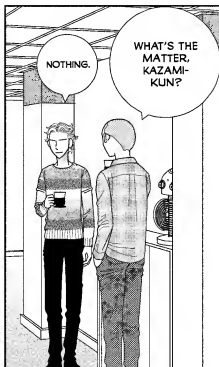
STILL, I MEAN, I'VE
ALREADY DONE
SO MUCH OF THE
WORK IN THIS
RELATIONSHIP.

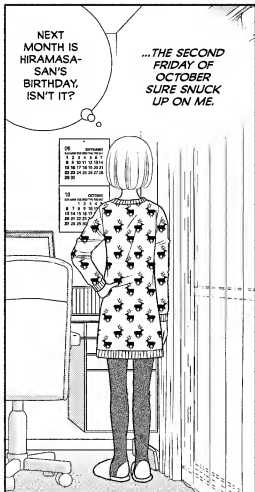
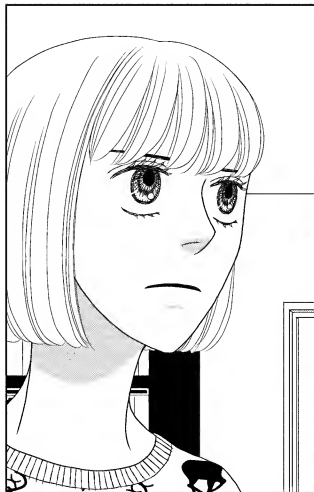
I JUST...

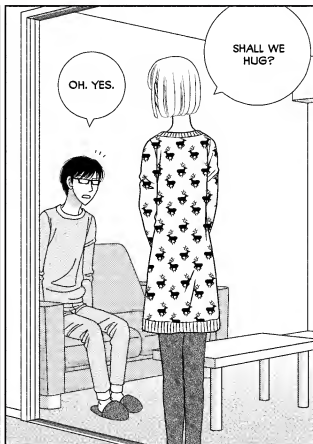
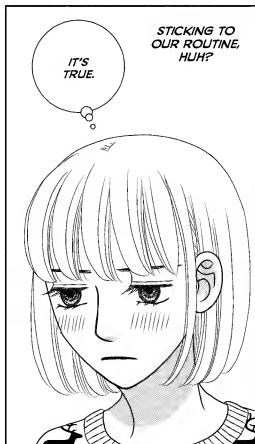
*...WANT TO GET CLOSER
TO HIRAMASA-SAN.*

REALLY, THOUGH...

*AT THE END OF
THE DAY, I DON'T
PARTICULARLY
CARE WHO TAKES
THE LEAD.*







EVEN JUST THIS...



...DOES
MAKE ME
HAPPY.



HUGS ARE
SO NICE.

*I WANT TO KEEP
TOUCHING AND
TOUCHING...*

*BUT I WANT
TO KISS, TOO.*

HIRAMASA-SAN.



DO YOU WANT...

...TO DO IT
WITH ME?





WOW.



*I CAN
FEEL HIM...*



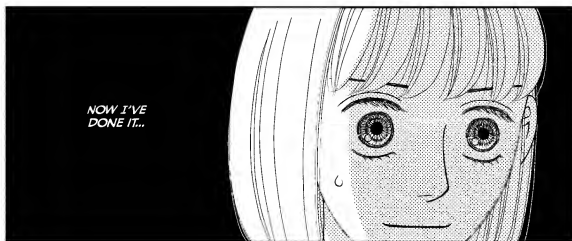
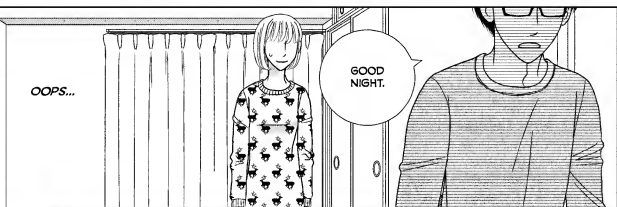
...PULLING AWAY.



FARTHER...

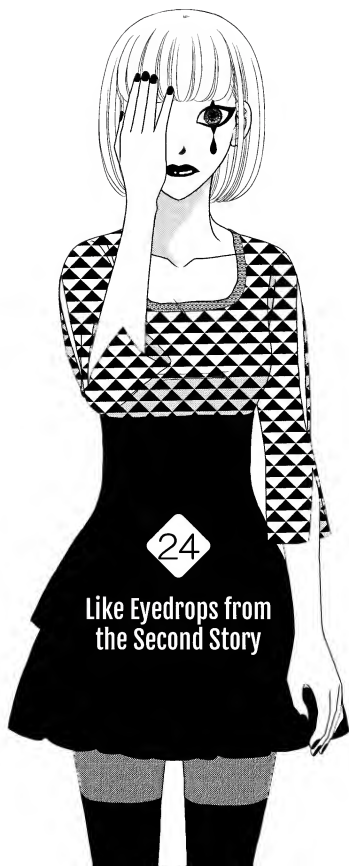


*...AND
FARTHER.*



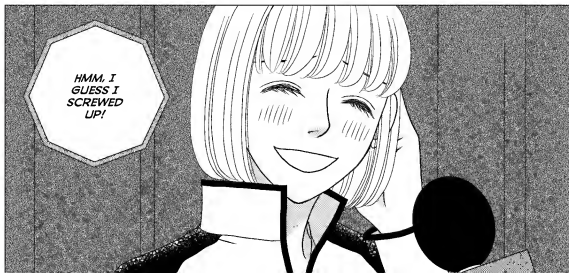
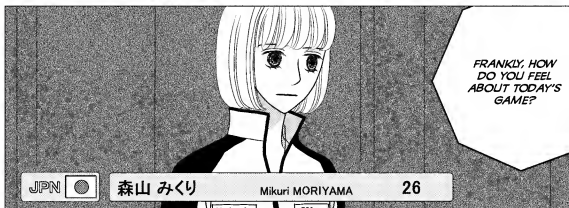
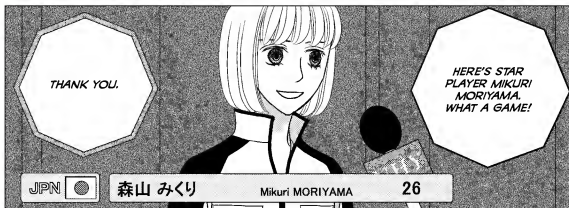
THAT TOTALLY BACKFIRED.

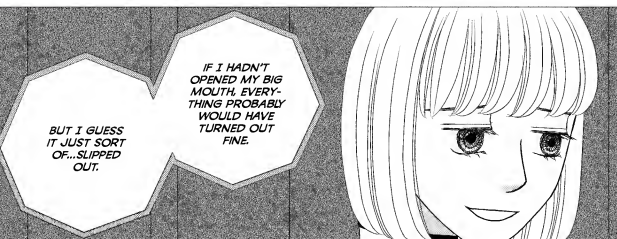
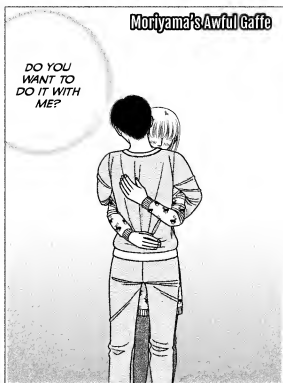
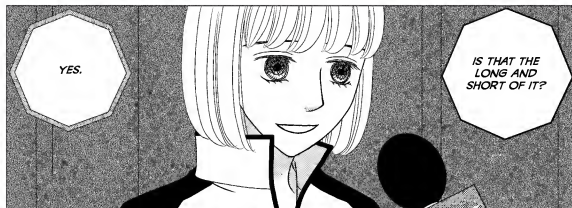


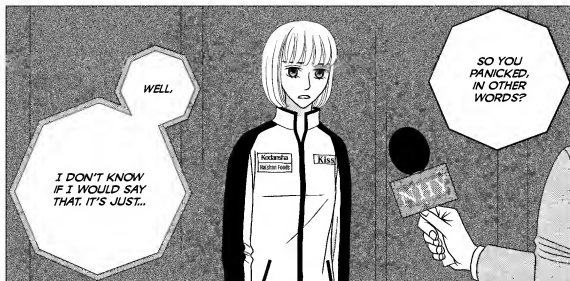


24

Like Eyedrops from
the Second Story







I DON'T KNOW
IF I WOULD SAY
THAT. IT'S JUST...

WELL,

SO YOU
PANICKED,
IN OTHER
WORDS?



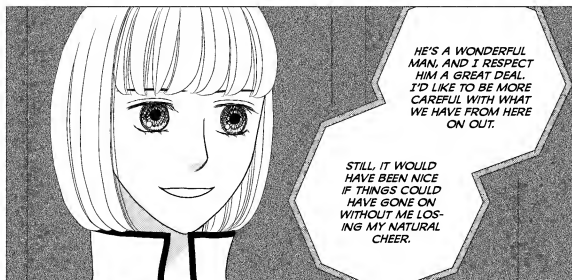
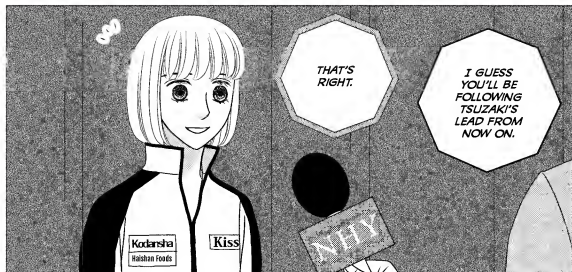
I JUST
WANTED TO
GET CLOSER
TO HIM...

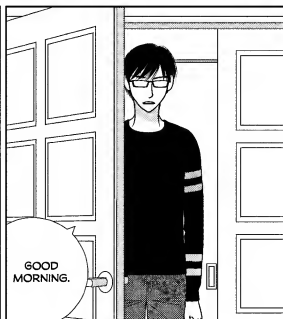
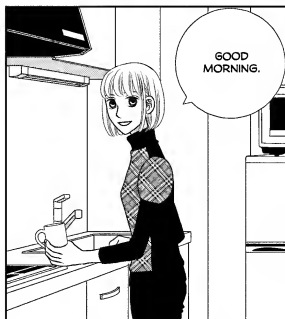
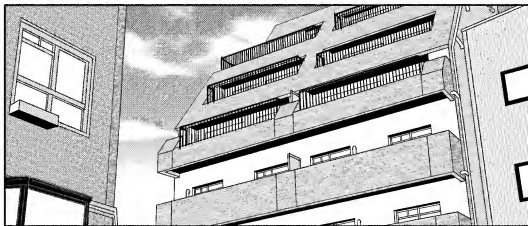
LET'S
SEE...

YEAH...



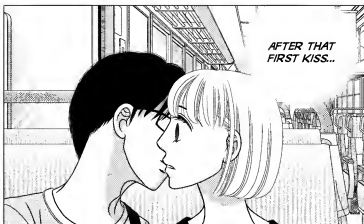
MAYBE YOU COULD
SAY I DID PANIC
ABOUT MY SENSE
OF THE DISTANCE
BETWEEN US.







...I WONDER IF
HIRAMASA-SAN
FELT LIKE I DO
NOW.



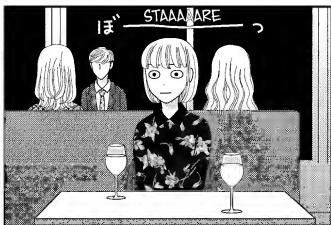
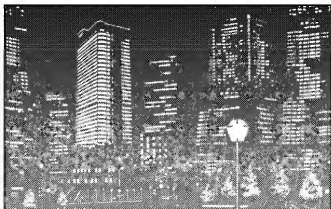
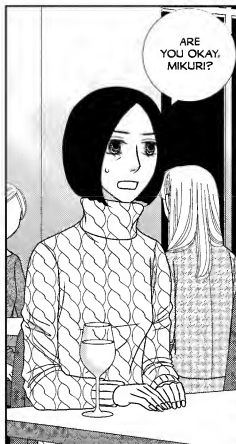
AFTER THAT
FIRST KISS...

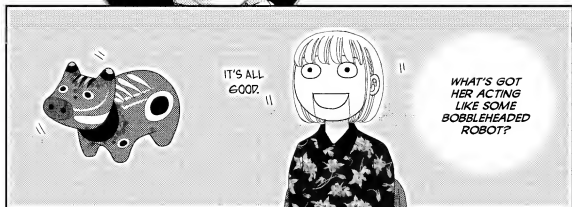
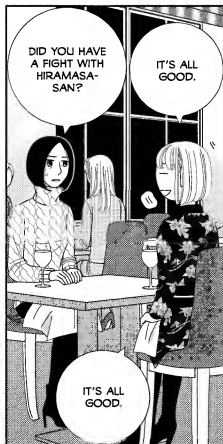


WAAA! I'M
SO SORRY FOR
GETTING MAD
AND ACTING ALL
HIGH-AND-MIGHTY
BACK THEN!

CAN'T WE
JUST PRETEND
IT NEVER HAP-
PENED?

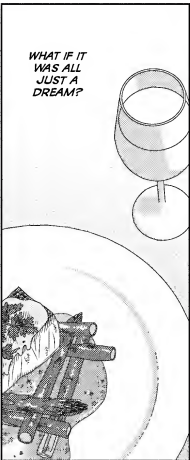
I JUST WANT
TO MAKE IT
THROUGH TO-
DAY WITHOUT
THINGS GETTING
WORSE!







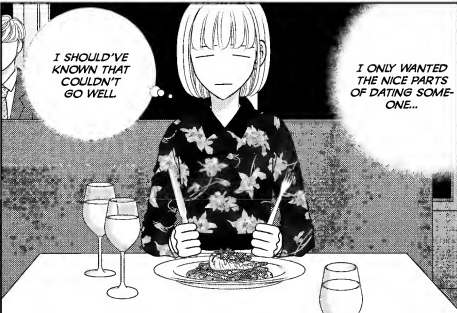
ALL THOSE HUGS
AND KISSES... JUST
FIGMENTS OF MY
IMAGINATION.



WHAT IF IT
WAS ALL
JUST A
DREAM?



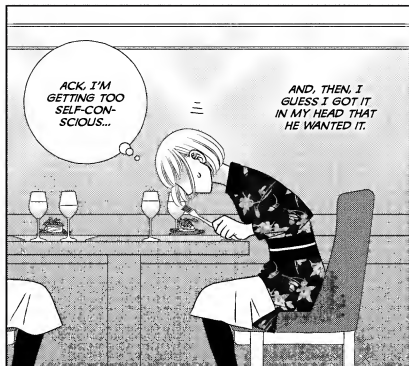
NOTHING HAS
CHANGED SINCE
THE BEGINNING.
WE'VE MAINTAINED
A PROFESSIONAL
RELATIONSHIP WITH
AN APPROPRIATE
AMOUNT OF
DISTANCE AND
RESTRAINT.



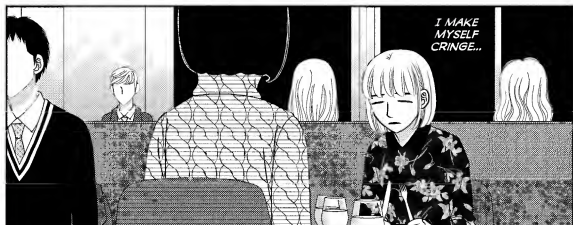
I SHOULD'VE
KNOWN THAT
COULDN'T
GO WELL.

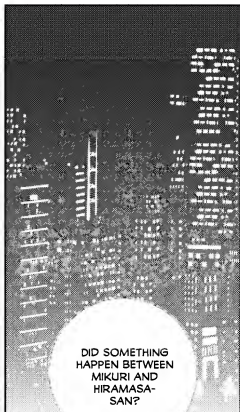
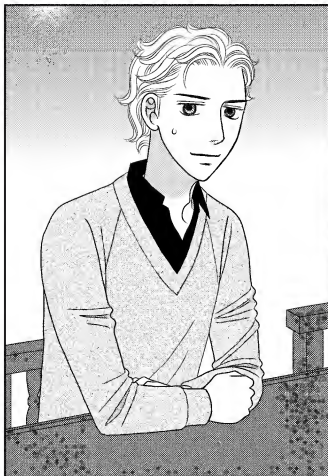
I ONLY WANTED
THE NICE PARTS
OF DATING SOME-
ONE...

OH,
GOD...

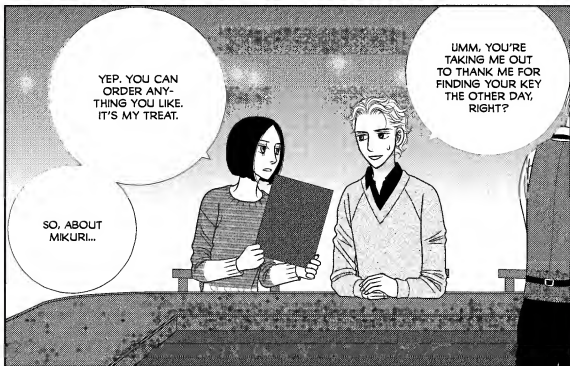


BEFORE I KNEW IT,
I STARTED ASKING
TOO MUCH OF HIM.





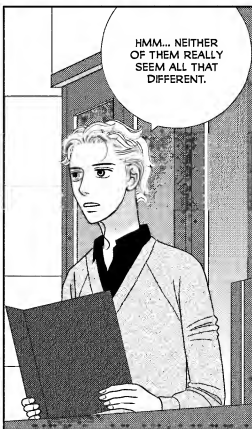
DID SOMETHING
HAPPEN BETWEEN
MIKURI AND
HIRAMASA-
SAN?

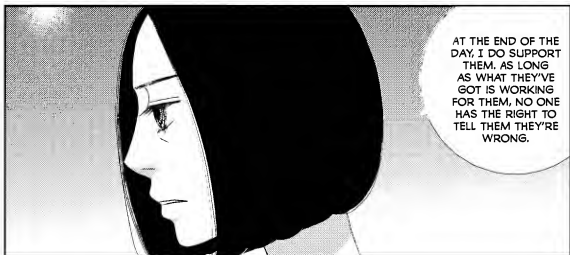
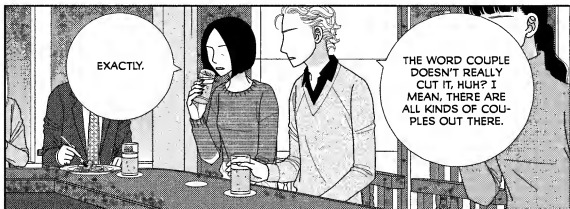


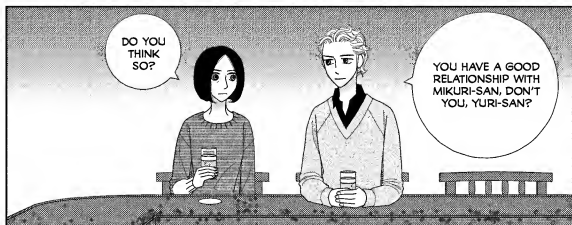
YEP. YOU CAN
ORDER ANY-
THING YOU LIKE.
IT'S MY TREAT.

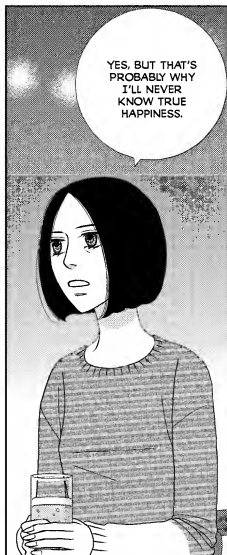
SO, ABOUT
MIKURI...

UMM, YOU'RE
TAKING ME OUT
TO THANK ME FOR
FINDING YOUR KEY
THE OTHER DAY,
RIGHT?



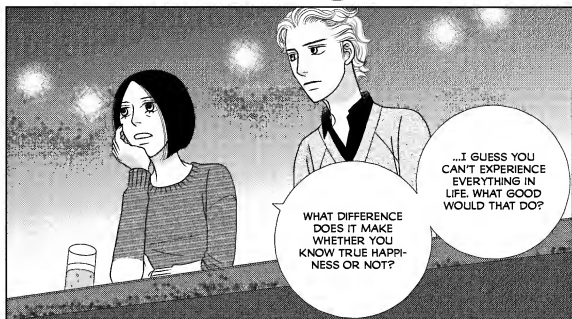


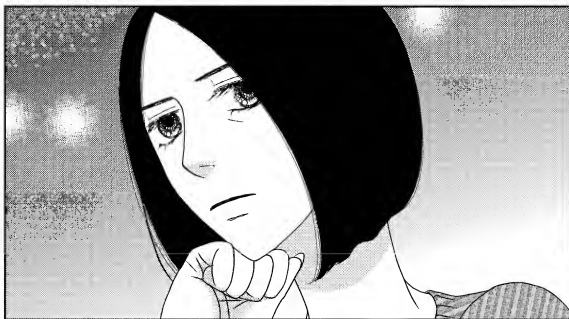


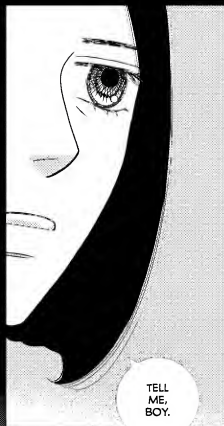




*TARAKO IS THE ROE OF THE ALASKA POLLOCK.







TELL
ME,
BOY.



SORRY.

YOU YOUNG
PEOPLE ASK
SUCH CRUEL
QUESTIONS...

DON'T YOU
THINK TRUE
HAPPINESS
MEANS DIFFER-
ENT THINGS
FOR DIFFERENT
PEOPLE?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

10

OCTOBER

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

1 2 3 4 5

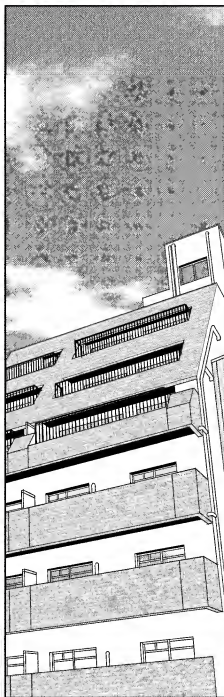
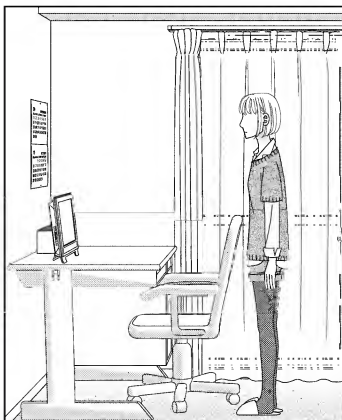
6 7 8 9 10 11 12

13 14 15 16 17 18 19

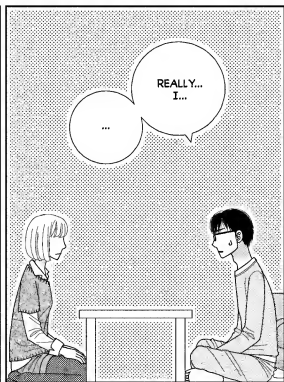
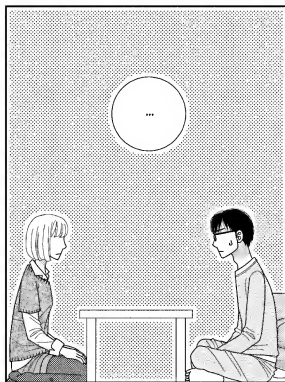
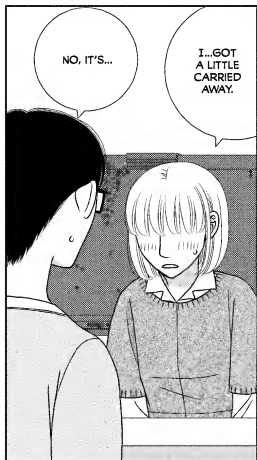
20 21 22 23 24 25 26

27 28 29 30 31

*IT'S THE
FOURTH
FRIDAY.
OUR HUG
DAY HAS
COME
AGAIN.*



*IT'S BEEN TWO
WEEKS.*







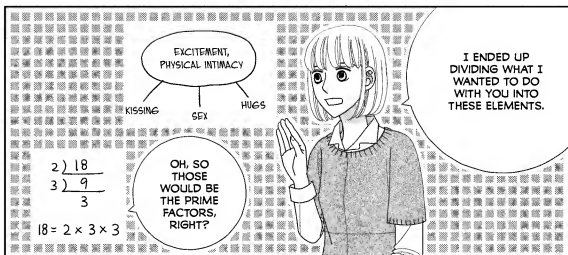
WELL, KISSING
AND HUGGING
WERE EXCITING,
SO I THOUGHT
WE MIGHT GO
FURTHER.

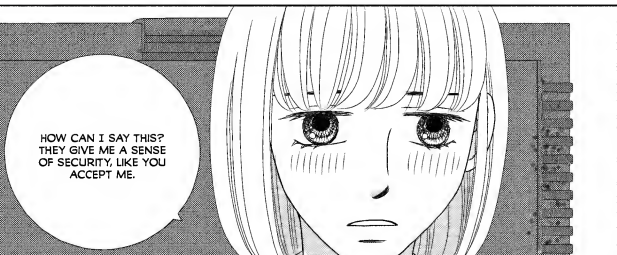
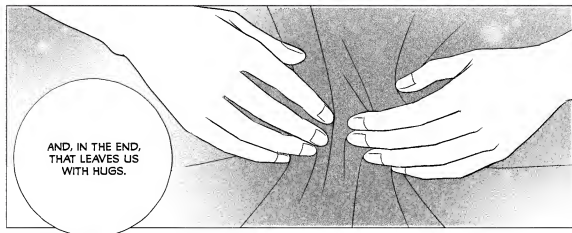


BUT I WAS
BEING
ONE-SIDED
ABOUT IT.



AND WE BECAME
CONTRACTUAL LOVERS
BECAUSE I WANTED
EXCITEMENT AND
PHYSICAL INTIMACY,
TOO. RIGHT?







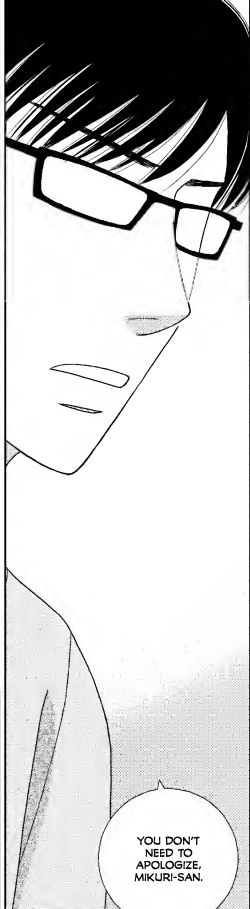
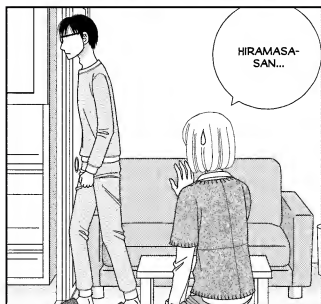
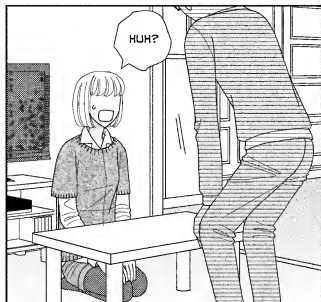
BUT IF YOU'VE BEEN
OKAY WITH IT SO
FAR, WOULD IT BE
ALL RIGHT FOR US
TO KEEP HUGGING?

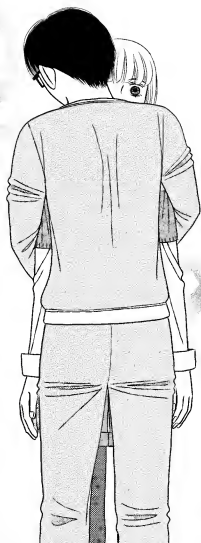


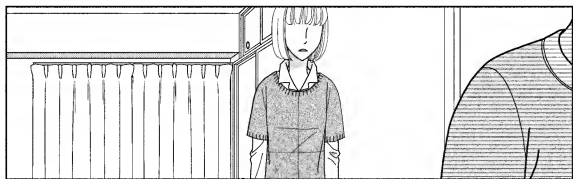
IT'LL BE FINE. I'M NOT
FORCING MY FEELINGS
ON HIM OR ANYTHING.

EVEN
HIRAMASA-SAN
WOULDN'T SAY
NO TO TH-









*A HUG IS A MEANS OF
COMMUNICATING YOUR
FEELINGS.*

*SOMEHOW, THAT FELT LIKE
THE MOST HALF-ASSED...*

*...LOVELESS HUG HE'S
EVER GIVEN ME.*



I...

*...HAVEN'T BEEN THINKING
ABOUT ANYONE BUT MYSELF.*

*I JUST DIDN'T WANT TO REOPEN OLD
WOUNDS. I WAS SO FOCUSED ON RUNNING
AWAY FROM THAT...*

...THAT I SHUT HER OUT.

*I DIDN'T EVEN REALIZE HOW
MUCH I WAS HURTING HER.*

AT THAT
TIME...

NEITHER OF
US COULD
BEGIN TO
IMAGINE...

...WE WERE
BOTH STILL IN
SHOCK.

...WHAT WAS GOING
TO HAPPEN TWO
WEEKS LATER ON
HIRAMASA-SAN'S
BIRTHDAY.



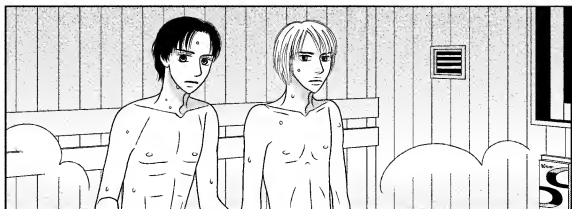
GOD
DAMN
IT.

I'M THE
WORST.

EVERY TIME I
START LIKING
SOMEONE...

...I LOSE A LITTLE
MORE SELF-
CONFIDENCE.





きゅん
BADUMP

The Full-Time Wife Escapist
Volume 5, The End

Special Thanks to

**Mio Hase,
my family and friends,
Kamakura-san,
Murakami-san,
Komuro-san,
everyone who cooperated with my interviews,**

and YOU!

**With Love,Tsunami
Umino, 2015**

**You can follow my work at this blog!
<http://uminotsunami.seesaa.net/>**

Afterword

This is my forty-first tankōbon.

There wasn't much romance in volume one. Even as they awarded it runner-up for their manga grand prize, Anan magazine wrote, "At the moment, there's not much in this comic that will make your heart beat fast," so it's pretty hard to believe how much I've turned up the love dial.

That's what I did in a previous comic, Shōkojō, too.

Our couple's relationship continues to grow in volume six, so please look forward to it!

From male fans, I sometimes hear things like, "This is too good a deal for the guy," and "I want a marriage like this!" On the other hand, from female fans, I hear things like, "I want a contractual marriage, too," and "I want someone to hire me." I'm like, uh, it sounds like we have a match.

It can be hard to share your thoughts with the person you like. When you think about it, trust is more important than love when it comes to building a life together, and relationships built on the former can work out better sometimes.

Be sure to let me know if you happen to become a real-life "wife escapist."

A few days before writing this afterword, I went to Okinawa on a rough draft-writing trip.

It worked out, but it was no fun to be hounded by work the whole time. I was like, "Agh, I want time when I don't have to think about anything." Just some nice time spacing out.

Planning and efficiency are important, too, but I want to go ahead and use the time I save up by those means doing absolutely nothing.

It's the same way with travel. On a tour, your schedule is all planned out. You just wake up early, go see the sights, buy your souvenirs, get back to the hotel, eat at a buffet of the local cuisine, and go back to sleep. You can check out a lot of places that way, but it's tiring, and all you're left with is a pile of photos.

Even in the middle of something like that, I want time to space out, to take a nap in a deck chair by the pool or on the veranda or something.

Next week, I'm going to undergo another outpatient surgery. I was looking forward to the week of rest at home that would follow, but I was disappointed when I took a look at my schedule. I'm supposed to write two chapters' worth of dialogue that week.

That ain't a break!

Well, I did take some time off not too long ago, so I can't just do it again. Otherwise, I won't meet my deadline...

But I have another surgery coming up, too, and I'll definitely get some time off for that one. Till then, I'll keep at it. Things are getting good story-wise right now, anyway.

I'm getting a lot of surgeries this year, but I should be done with them before the year is up. Next year, I'd like to go overseas again. Not to mention do some napping.

For now, I'm making sweets to relax.

Don't they smell so good while they're baking? It makes me happy.

Also, since I've been so into baking lately, I've found myself buying things like cherry blossom paste, muffin pans, and chiffon cake molds.

Baking sweets is so fun! Even if you make a lot, you can freeze them, and you don't have to use as much butter or sugar as the recipe calls for.

I've gotta say, though: Using less butter and sugar in my sweets has really made me realize how much tastier they are when you include the full amounts!

So maybe it's best to have just a little bit of the tasty stuff.

Looking up recipes to figure out what I'm going to make next using seasonal fruits is a time of absolute bliss for me. Of course, I do it while eating my afternoon snack!

By the way, the snap broke on the wallet I've been using for a long time now, so I bought a new one for the first time in a while. It's a wallet bag with a chain on it.

It's really handy. I can put my smart phone and a hotel keycard in it and hang it on my shoulder.

In the past, while I was traveling, I had problems stuffing my wallet into my pocket or having my larger purse get in the way during breakfast. Now I can just carry my wallet around on my shoulder.

I went with a reserved, lame bag, so I can use it for parties, too. Now I won't stuff my bag too full when I go to them.

I'm sure glad I bought it!

Please don't hesitate to invite me to parties, everyone.

Anyway, on to volume styl

Volume 6
Don't
miss it!!

6

THE FULL-TIME WIFE ESCAPIST

Their relationship takes a sudden turn.
Where is their marriage going now?



Keep an eye out for it!

Translation Notes

From a Withered Tree, Flowers May Bloom, page 3 [3.1]

This proverb suggests that something past its prime may regain its old glory. If you search for it on the internet, you will find that it seems to have been adopted by many people in the English-speaking world as a "Zen quote," although its origins are not necessarily related to Buddhism.



20

From a Withered Tree,
Flowers May Bloom

Kyoho grapes, page 4 [4.4]

This is a very large variety of hybrid grape.



Tennis circle, page 11 [11.1]

Tennis circles are a popular kind of social club in Japanese universities. Some of them genuinely do have a focus on playing tennis, but there are many that simply use it as a means of helping students meet each other. At the most extreme end, there are tennis circles that are little more than singles clubs. Another variety of tennis circle is the "all around circle," which plays tennis in the summer and snowboards in the winter. This is the kind that M-kun joins.



The tennis circle M-kun joined was the kind that played tennis in the summer and snowboarded in the winter.

Personal seal, page 36 [36.3]

Mikuri is referring to her *hanko*. This is a stamp of a person or business's name that is used in Japanese society much like a signature is in the US.



Soldam plums, page 41

[41.6]

This variety of plum is common in Japan. It has red-dish-green skin and bright red meat.



In Spring, Sunny Weather Doesn't Last, page 60

[60.1]

Literally, this proverb would translate as, "You don't get three days of sun in spring." It's referring to the tendency of the weather to change from day to day in spring, whereas it tends to be more consistent in other seasons. There is a similar saying in some US cities, "If you don't like the weather, wait five minutes."

22

In Spring, Sunny Weather
Doesn't Last

He could practically be a monk, page 65

[65.3]

If you're a meme connoisseur, you might be familiar with the idea that a guy who's still a virgin at thirty becomes a wizard. This derives from a Japanese meme that suggests that such a guy becomes a wizard or fairy (note that there is no connotation of homosexuality in the latter, but rather, magical powers). In the original manga, Mikuri was referencing this meme here.



Let Sleeping Dogs Lie, page 91

[91.1]

This chapter's title was originally the Japanese idiom "poke at the bushes and find a snake." This idiom refers to the act of doing something that brings about a bad result when inaction would have been better.

23

Let Sleeping Dogs Lie

Translation Notes

Like Eyedrops from the Second Story, page 123 [123.1]

This proverb describes trying to fix something in a totally ineffective way, like trying to apply eyedrops to someone on the ground from the second story of a building.



Bobbleheaded robot, page 131 [131.4]

In Japanese, Yuri calls Mikuri an "akabeko-like robot." An akabeko, or "red cow," is a traditional craft of the Aizu region of Fukushima prefecture. Its head bobbles, and the drawing shown next to Mikuri in this panel is what it looks like.



Tankobon, page 156 [156.1]

Most manga start out by being serialized in a magazine. When the chapters are collected into a book, that book is called a tankobon.

Anan magazine, page 156 [156.1]

This is a women's magazine in Japan.

Afterword

This is my forty-first tankobon.
There wasn't much romance in volume one. Even as they awarded it "runner-up" for their "worst brand" award, Anan magazine wrote, "At the moment, there's not much in this comic that will make your heart beat fast," so it's pretty hard to believe how much I've turned up the love dial.
That's what I did in a previous comic, Shokugeki, too.
Our couple's relationship continues to grow in volume 19, so please look forward to it!

The Full-Time Wife Escapist 5

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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